Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-90-009 *12 January 1990*

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OAS Council Demands U.S. Respect for Law

PA0901021390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 9 Jan 90

[Text] Washington, 8 Jan (EFE)—The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) today demanded from the United States respect for international law regulations with 19 votes in favor, 7 abstentions, and none against.

The resolution, approved at a special meeting held at Nicaragua's request, referred to the raid conducted on the home of the Nicaraguan ambassador to Panama on 29 December by invading troops in the Panamanian capital.

Panamanian Envoy to OAS Criticizes Organization

PA1101191390 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Lawrence Chewning Fabrega, the ambassador designated to the OAS by President Guillermo Endara's government, today criticized the organization for its failure, inertia, and lack of action against the deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime. In May 1989, the OAS sent a mission to Panama to seek reconciliatory agreements that would solve the crisis that followed the annulment of the election by Noriega's government.

[Begin Chewning Fabrega recording] The Panamanian crisis was turned over to the OAS. The OAS had Panama's future and the future of democracy in that small country on the Central American isthmus in its hands.

Gentlemen, take a few moments to reconsider. Examine your consciences. I must repeat, as I stand at this tribune of American thought, this tribune of freedom and justice, not only the opinions, thoughts, and statements of 2 million Panamanians, but those of all the men in this hemisphere who have dignity. The OAS failed in its mission. Many resolutions were approved, and not one, not even one, named Manuel Antonio Noriega as the leading cause for the Panamanian people's suffering and agony.

I admit efforts were made, but they were not courageous enough, they were not brave enough, they were not as unselfish as they should have been. The Panamanian people, through me, their spokesman at this foremost regional organization, must say to each American government and people that we do not consider ourselves invaded by the United States of America. We consider ourselves liberated by the United States of America—and this, gentlemen, whether many of you like it or not, is what the absolute majority of Panamanians believe, just as the media reports from Panama indicate.

The United States has helped us recover our democracy; the Panamanian people would never, never, have been able to free themselves from the tyrant, because they had no weapons to confront the oppressive forces. Today I call on all those states whose governments are criticizing us, all those states that under the pretext of helping Panama are now condemning what the Panamanian people are applauding. We do not need this type of help. What we are demanding is that you extend to us the hand of friendship, the hand of a hemispheric brother, so you can help us consolidate our democracy.

Instead of adopting empty resolutions of condemnation, this council should issue effective resolutions that will help rebuild a country that has been destroyed and that demands recognition as a democratic and free nation.

The OAS has only spoken about an invasion. I am asking all of the governments you represent to understand our situation and respect it. There would have been no invasion if a Noriega had not existed. There would have been no invasion if the friendly countries of this hemisphere had supported the Panamanian people's democratic process. There would have been no invasion if the OAS had adopted a braver, more decisive, and sincere position. [end recording]

Latin American, Caricom Delegates To Meet

PA1101023490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2110 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 10 Jan (DPA)—Latin American and Caribbean representatives will meet here on 12 and 13 January in what will be the first meeting between Latin American countries and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM).

The meeting, which will be opened on 12 January by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueredo Planchart, will have the participation of ranking delegates from Colombia, Barbados, Brazil, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, as well as Roderick Rainfort, the CARICOM secretary general.

It was officially announced here that the meeting representatives will discuss multilateral agreements to bolster cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Caracas conclave will be held in the wake of the CARICOM presidents' meeting last August in Trinidad and Tobago. At that time, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez proposed the holding of a first conclave of representatives of the Caribbean and Latin America in Caracas.

Among the objectives of future cooperation are to acquire self-sufficiency in aspects of foodstuffs, engage in the joint exploitation of mineral wealth, develop exports in specific areas, and develop joint markets.

Also, the participants in the Caracas meeting will seek ways to strengthen regional trade, develop human resources, and rationalize transportation and communication systems.

Caricom Officials Leave for Caracas Talks

FL1101170390 Bridgetown CANA in English 1510 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 11, CANA— A team of Trinidad and Tobago and Caribbean Community officials left for Venezuela on Wednesday [10 January] for 2 days of talks on greater Latin American and Caribbean co-operation, according to external affairs minister, Dr. Sahadeo Basdeo.

The team will meet with officials from Venezuela, Colombia, and Brazil to follow-up on commitments to enhance co-operation in the region made by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez during a meeting with Caricom leaders in Tobago last August.

Trinidad and Tobago's team consists of permanent secretaries from the office of Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, and the Ministries of External Affairs, Planning, Energy, and Industry.

Topics to be discussed at the January 12-13 meeting include regional self-sufficiency in food production, joint exploration of regional mineral resources, and development and exploration of the region's exporting potential. Other topics include increases in intra-regional trade levels, sharing of technology, co-operation for training and human resource development, and rationalisation of transport and communication systems in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The teams will also seek to identify sectors for the establishment of joint action programmes for co-operation. Trinidad and Tobago and neighbouring Venezuela have thrashed out areas of co-operation in some of these fields. Perez met with Caricom leaders after a visit to Port of Spain where several bilateral agreements were signed.

Cuba

Czech Journalist Expelled for 'Untrue' Reporting

PA1201044390 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0317 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report By Gerardo Gonzalez Vega]

[Text] Havana, 11 Jan (EFE)—Czechoslovak journalist Michael Zermack, Radio Prague's correspondent in Latin America with offices in Havana, today became the first socialist reporter expelled from Cuba because of his work.

The immediate reason for his expulsion is a report he transmitted on 8 January to his headquarters that was critical of the current situation in Cuba.

When consulted by EFE about the reasons for his expulsion, Zermack, who must leave the island before 16 January, said that "I reported that the economic situation in Cuba is bad, that some products are not available in the markets, and that I have the impression that Cuba is experiencing the calm that precedes a storm."

In the opinion of the Czechoslovak journalist, the catalyst of his expulsion might have been the fact that Radio Marti, the U.S. station beamed at Cuban listeners, aired the report he transmitted to Radio Prague on 9 and 10 January, and even today.

Meanwhile, the Cuban Foreign Ministry's International Press Center (CPI), the office tasked with dealing with the foreign press, reported that Zermack was expelled for disseminating "untrue" information.

In reply to the expulsion, Radio Prague moved its Latin American office from Havana to Buenos Aires instead of naming a new correspondent for the Cuban capital.

Sources from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Cuba consulted by EFE stated that they have not yet been officially informed about the expulsion, but they are aware of and are monitoring it with interest. Other Czechoslovak press sources consulted by EFE said that Zermack transmitted a very harsh report, but it reflected his professional assessment of the situation.

Western diplomatic sources consulted by EFE pointed out that Zermack's expulsion may be related to the clashing viewpoints expressed by Cuba and Czechoslovakia at the most recent CEMA meeting that closed on 10 January in Sofia.

Western journalists believe that Zermack's expulsion could be a warning to other socialist correspondents who have been adopting critical attitudes toward Cuba on certain occasions since changes have begun to take place in their respective countries.

Before Zermack, four Western correspondents have been expelled from Cuba since 1985.

Relatives of the journalist told EFE that Zermack's expulsion does not affect his wife and son, who may stay in Cuba if they so wish.

Further on Expulsion

PA1201020190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0043 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 11 Jan (EFE)—Radio Prague correspondent in Cuba Michael Zermack was expelled from the country for broadcasting "inaccurate and untrue" information, Hector Argiles, director of the International Press Center (CPI) of the Cuban Foreign Ministry told EFE today.

Argiles himself advised Zermack of the expulsion order today.

The CPI director said "Radio Prague's correspondent broadcast to his headquarters an assessment of our country's internal situation that does not correspond to our reality."

"Furthermore, he made comparisons between the Cuban situation and what is happening in Czechoslovakia and Romania. He said something similar could happen here, and we do not believe these comparisons are valid at all," Argiles added.

"We do not believe the information he broadcasted corresponds to what is happening in Cuba or that any comparison can be made with other countries. Furthermore, the news media, which have historically been against Cuba, base their reports on reports such as these," the Cuban official stressed.

His reference to news media reporting against Cuba was apparently a reference to the U.S. "Radio Marti," which on 9 and 10 January broadcast Zermack's 8 January report to Radio Prague.

"We have told Zermack, therefore, to leave the country as soon as he can book a flight home," Argiles added.

Zermack, who was the Cuban-based Radio Prague correspondent for all Latin America, is the first journalist of a socialist country to be expelled from Cuba for reasons related to news reporting.

Four journalists from capitalist countries have been expelled from Cuba over the past 5 years: Andre Birukokk of the French press agency AFP in June 1985; Roberto Powell of the British press agency Reuters and Noel Lonthiois of AFP in September 1986; and Gilles Trequesseur of Reuters in July 1989.

GRANMA on Expulsion

FL1201142190 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1140 GMT 12 Jan 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] I want to read an article that appeared today on page two of the newspaper GRANMA under the headline "The metamorphosis of a correspondent."

The U.S. Government anti-Cuban services have broadcast and rebroadcast a report on the Cuban situation in the usual tone of this type of program, which is notorious for its disregard of the truth and for its outrageous manipulations. The article essentially seeks to draw a parallel of the situation in Cuba and that of Eastern European countries from a deliberately distorted viewpoint with the intention of portraying at all costs our country on the brink of a crisis. This is nothing new. This is just a lithany conceived for naive people and for the counterrevolutionary sewage.

The unprecedented thing is that this time the worm radio was just repeating verbatim a Radio Prague report drafted in Havana by its correspondent Michael Zermack. Perhaps Zermack will now have the opportunity to work directly for the counterrevolutionary station because the Cuban authorities, considering that his professional conduct was out of keeping with the most basic rules of decency a correspondent accredited to any country should observe, have asked him to leave the country immediately. The political and ethical considerations involved in this case are evident.

Government Condemns U.S. Action Off Colombia

FL1201125190 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Foreign Ministry statement issued on 11 January]

[Text] In recent days, international press organizations have reported on the U.S. Government's intention of establishing an air-naval blockade against the Republic of Colombia under the pretext of intercepting drug traffickers. An extensive military deployment, including the "John F. Kennedy" aircraft carrier and the "Virginia" nuclear-powered guided missile cruiser, has reported for this purpose off the coast of Colombia.

These actions are a new U.S. aggression against Colombia, Latin America, and the Caribbean immediately following the brutal and criminal invasion of Panama. This is also an irrefutable demonstration of the policy of force that the imperialists arrogantly apply in the region, thus scorning all international law and giving themselves the supranational right to decide what is good and what is bad for our peoples.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry strongly condemns this U.S. aggression against Colombia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. It denounces in front of the international public the aggressive policy of the United States toward international laws and peoples and calls on world public opinion, especially in the Latin American and Caribbean Community, to close ranks and thwart the Bush administration's attempts to apply the imperialist formula of panamizing [panamenizar] the region.

Signed: Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Cuba.

Havana Notes Linares Remarks on Asylum Seekers

FL1101124590 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares has said that the Government and Justice Ministry should determine the situation of those people who have sought asylum in several embassies. Linares added that the ministry should decide if the people in the embassies are being politically persecuted or are common criminals so that the Foreign Ministry can grant or deny them the corresponding safe-conducts. The Panamanian foreign minister added that several refugees are being sheltered in the Bolivian, Cuban, Nicaraguan, Ecuadoran, and Peruvian Embassies.

It was also reported that about 70 journalists were dismissed after the closing of 3 newspapers and a publishing house.

Ceremony Honors Panamanians Killed in 1964

FL1101162790 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1526 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The meaning of the 26th anniversary of the massacre of Panamanian youths in the Canal Zone was set forth in this capital by Javier Ortega, the Panamanian representative in Cuba to the Continental Organization of Latin American Students, OCLAE.

In the ceremony of solidarity held at the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP], Ortega gave details about the event. When a group of Panamanian students asked for permission to raise the flag of their country in the Canal Zone, they were attacked and the national symbol destroyed. He recalled that 22 young people died and more than 800 were wounded in these events 26 years ago. Therefore, he stated, this date is a milestone in the history of Panama.

Reinaldo Gonzalez, first vice president of ICAP, said that this great homage to the heroic anniversary also pays tribute to those who only a few days ago fell for the sovereignty of their people.

Communist Youths Arrested for Advocating Reforms

PA1201011990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2342 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 11 Jan (EFE)—Four students of the School of Mathematics of the University of Havana have

been under arrest since 4 January, sources from human rights dissident organizations in Cuba reported today.

The reason for their arrests is their proposal for major reforms to be made to the current Cuban system, as well as criticism expressed within the Union of Communist Youths (UJC), to which they belong, the same source added.

Two of the students were identified as Jorge Quintana and Carlos Ortega; the names of the other two have not been disclosed.

The students conducted their political activities sponsored by the group "Followers of Mella," named after the communist student leader Juan Antonio Mella, who was killed in 1929 by the government of Gerardo Machado.

Their criticism of the current Cuban system is from a leftist point of view because the ideas they expressed before the UJC leadership were in "defense of the Socialist Revolution."

According to the document released by the human rights organizations, the detainees also proposed "expanding democracy in Cuban society," the "redistribution of property," a "national dialogue," and elimination of the "personality cult."

In a letter written to the UJC national bureau prior to his arrest and which was released today by the human rights organizations, Jorge Quintana insisted on these same reforms.

Quintana pointed out that he was advocating these changes because of the "escalation of repression," because "the levels of democracy do not correspond with the development achieved by our society," and because there is a "personality cult in the person of Fidel Castro" to the point that it is affecting his prestige.

He says that in 1959 there was a true revolution in Cuba, but "this revolution turned into Stalinism." He quotes Lenin in saying that "those who are hindering the inevitable changes" will be responsible for the struggles that will be unleashed, "including the armed struggle."

According to the same sources, the students have been imprisoned in Villa Marista, a police detention center in Havana; they have been expelled from their university, and they are also about to be dismissed from their jobs.

The report was not confirmed by official sources, but it was confirmed by the university sources who mentioned two of them—without specifiying which ones. University sources also reported that a public rally on the subject that was scheduled for 5 January at the University of Havana was suspended at the last minute.

This is the first criticism from the left of the Fidel Castro government in Cuba, since all the current dissident groups on the island are more prone to be anticommunists.

Health of 'Political Prisoner' Mustelier Improves

PA120i163790 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0347 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 10 Jan (EFE)—Relatives of steadfast recalcitrant [plantado] political prisoner Alfredo Mustelier reported today that his health has improved, thus he has been transferred from the intensive care unit to the prisoners' unit of Havana's Carlos J. Finlay Hospital.

According to a communique delivered to EFE by Mustelier's wife, Maria Caridad Aguirre, Mustelier was in the intensive care unit of the above mentioned hospital from 29 November to 7 January.

On 30 October Mustelier marked the 20th anniversary of his 25-year jail sentence, and that very day he began a hunger strike by refusing to eat or drink, demanding that the benefits of the new Cuban Penal Code be applied to him.

According to Mustelier's wife, the benefits of the new Penal Code would consist of a maximum jail term of 20 years for crimes with no bloodshed involved.

Aguirre adds that Mustelier, now 46-years-old, is in "serious condition," and he continues to drink liquids only. As a result, he has developed bronchitis and liver problems.

Aguirre reported that she hired the legal services of a state-run lawyer's office expert to defend her husband in an appeal to review the causes under which Mustelier was sentenced in 1969 for his alleged participation, along with others, in stealing weapons and equipment and causing the death of one soldier.

Mustelier, along with Ernesto Diaz Castro and Mario Chanes, who are also serving prison terms of over 20 years, are the three steadfast recalcitrant political prisoners remaining in Havana's "Combinado del Este" Penitentiary Center.

Steadfast recalcitrant prisoners are those who refuse to wear the prison's uniform and reject the official rehabilitation plans.

Assembly Leader Receives Italian Parliament Group

FL1201021390 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Severo Aguirre del Cristo, acting president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], has received a delegation from the Italian Parliament which is visiting Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban assembly.

The group, which is composed of representatives from various political tendencies, expressed interest in learning about the structure of the Cuban assembly, its role in the political direction of society, and the functions of the Councils of State and Ministers. The Italians also wanted to know what the requirements were to hold

posts in our parliament and the role of ANPP in the proposal and creation of laws.

Answering the question whether Cubans felt satisfied with the work of its highest organization, Aguirre del Cristo answered affirmatively. He also explained that the constituent assembly is the main center for the analysis of defects, errors, and problems which exist in the country.

The delegation, which is headed by Mrs (Adriana Lodi Faustinu), president of the Italy-Cuba Friendship Parliamentarian Group, will visit important centers in Cienfuegos, Pinar del Rio, and Havana City. The delegation's schedule also includes meetings with several ministers and representatives of the Cuban state.

Havana Notes Gorbachev's Visit to Lithuania

FL1201004590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0007 GMT 12 Jan 90

[From the "Exclusivo" program]

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today announced that a CPSU Central Committee plenum will be held this month to analyze its ties with the communist parties of the republics. The general secretary of the CPSU arrived today in Vilnius, Lithuania where the communist party recently approved its independence—a decision which gave rise to a political dialogue with the participation of the highest-ranking leaders of the organization.

According to a report by the Soviet news agency TASS, Gorbachev expressed today during his first meetings with the Lithuanian people the need to discuss in a new way the subject of independence of the communist parties of the republics within the organization of the CPSU. The Soviet leader emphasized that this will be one of the key subjects discussed at the 28th Congress of the organization which is scheduled for next October and at a CPSU Central Committee plenum which will be held this month. Among the reports about Gorbachev's proposed ideas, there is one which broaches the unifying role of the CPSU at a time when a decentralizing process is taking place throughout the Soviet Union.

More Internationalists Return, Welcomed Home

FL1201133190 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Another group of more than 150 internationalists returned to the country last night. They were greeted by Army Corps General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, who is a member of the party Politburo and a hero of the Republic of Cuba, as well as by other members of political and mass organizations, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and the Ministry of the Interior. [passage omitted]

Central Army Inspection Continues in Matanzas

FL1201024490 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The national inspection of the Central Army territory continued today in Matanzas to determine the state of the command in its five provinces.

Division General Sixto Batista Santana, secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and chief of its Military Department, toured various units and military installations of the Central Army in Matanzas. Sixto Batista, accompanied by other chiefs and officers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior, visited a large tank unit where he was briefed on the unit's combat capability, living conditions of the troops, state of technology, and (?training). The national commission also observed the work of an antiaircraft installation. The group then visited a simulator for training tank drivers and a firing range. Throughout the rest of the day, the various work groups in Matanzas Province continued their inspection activities.

Soviet Scientists Find No Ozone Deterioration

FL1201141390 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] According to preliminary results from the Caribe 89 experiment conducted by Cuban and Soviet specialists, who have their main laboratory in the meteorological center of Camaguey, the ozone layer over Cuba does not show any marked deterioration. Even though this opinion is the result of several indexes, its validity must be confirmed by conclusive studies, said the chief of the physical atmospheric laboratory in the Camaguey meteorological center.

Castro Speech at Special School Inauguration

WA1101224290 Havana Cubavision Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Speech by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz during the inauguration of special schools in Havana on 1 January—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified speaker] It is 1730 on the 31st anniversary of our socialist revolution. You will hear the words our commander in chief, Fidel Castro.

[Castro] Manolo, that business of it being 1730 reminds me that I have to leave early [words indistinct] so I will not arrive late to the party. [Words indistinct] We have time, do we not?

[Speaker] There is time. Besides, everyone has a party ready to start. And this is the start of the best party. [applause]

[Castro] Comrades, it would be impossible for anyone to experience a day like today without being moved by what they have seen. I do not like to use exaggerated words to express things, but I have to say that this has

been an emotional day. A special type of emotion rising from the conviction of things which are valuable, important, transcendent, extraordinary. And such impressions we have received in touring 3 of the 15 schools. I do not know why we did not visit more schools. The work is [word indistinct] but it teaches us to see them right.

We did not see all of them. Some of them are similar to ones we have seen before, such as those for behavioral problems. Others were also similar, such as those in Guanabacoa for children with amblyopia and visual impairments. We must confess the truth, and it is that [word indistinct] visit these schools, that have been organized with difficulty. For that reason they included the school for the blind. I said let us leave it for another day. Let us not see so many schools so that we can tour them in a calm manner. [Words indistinct] and we reduced to three from the four schools which we planned to visit initially.

Before speaking of these schools I believe we should pay tribute to those who made these institutions possible. In the first place the workers, the builders, the minibrigade movement, and the people who helped in the achievement of this work and who were able to finish them by the designated date, 31 December of the year 1989. These schools were not like the childcare centers. All of the childcare centers are the same. They are much simpler. We learned about these schools by building them. Each one of them was complicated. They are, generally speaking, large schools and not all of them are alike. They are of different types, although several of them may be the same. The minibrigade movement of the capital has made possible this type of miracle which we see completed in the capital today: The special schools program.

These schools are also possible due to excellent teaching staff which works in them or which will work in them. A staff in which an extraordinary human quality is evident. And this is only possible in a society like ours, in a society where things are done with love and they are done because of solidarity with humanity. You see are dozens of women comrades—the immense majority are women—teachers, carrying a child by the hand, standing behind one of the students' chairs, or standing guard permanently in the classroom, everywhere, doing things with extraordinary kindness. It was really a vocation, it was their true vocation to do these activities, to work in these schools.

I also saw it yesterday during the inauguration of polyclinics. I asked some of the women comrades, physical education teachers, where they were, what they were doing and why they were here. And all of them said I am here because I like this work a lot, in the physical therapy room, in the physical therapy gymnasium. And they said they liked to help the people who have these difficulties. I asked today and received similar answers: I like to work with children who have difficulties and problems such as these. It requires a special vocation and, nevertheless, there are in our country more that 15,000 teachers in the special schools.

Special schools fight against different difficulties. They fight for childen who are psychologically retarded, they fight to recover this stage [as heard] and to help the child to become as normal as possible. And there are many of them, [repeats himself] many of them. I remember a figure of almost 20,000 from a total of 56,600. They are around 20,000. Fernando, check this in your travelling files. [laughter]

[Speaker] There are 12,000.

[Castro] Check up on it, I think there is 30,000 of the 56,000 who are mentally retarded.

[Speaker] There are 12,000 but there are 68 schools of that specialty.

[Castro] There are 13,000 now.

[Speaker] Some 13,000 now, but there are 68 schools of that specialty.

[Castro] Six times two, 18,200, almost 20,000 more [as heard]. Almost 20,000 more [repeats].

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] For the mentally retarded we had around 30,000. Check to see whether I made a mistake in this.

[Speaker] For the mentally retarded we have 30,900.

[Castro] Okay, more or less. And 13,000 for retarded....

[Speaker, interrupting] Yes, but there is 68 schools....

[Castro, interrupting] It is a school which is expressly for helping to resolve problems. Others schools might help to solve the problem of mental retardation. But you see the number: 30,056 [as heard]. But they prepare, they educate the child and the youth. They prepare the child for life, they prepare him for work. They prepare him for becoming useful to society. What would be the fate of this child, if things were as they were before? They reject school, they reject everything. Many of them would end up in prison. You have fight for the child with behavioral problems. Of the 56,000, some 7,800 have behavioral problems. If you check in your paper you will certify this, because I observed that number well. It was 7,800 or 6,800. Seven.

I was [word indistinct] the proportions, the proportions of one and another type of special school. I went to one of these schools and saw a child playing and doing things. I asked the director of the school what was wrong with this child, what they were doing; they play like normal children, just as intelligent, though they are small, still in primary school. The director said they are hyperactive and some are aggressive at times; they run away, they refuse to be disciplined. And here you have schools and teachers in which they maintain a totally normal

behavior. In fact, many of these children have above-average intelligence, and are really very nice. Well, this was in a school [changes thought] well, I will not repeat everything here, not that it was so bad.

But if one does something, they might all do it. [as heard] If one fights, they might all fight. So I want to give a lot of publicity to these schools for the behaviorally disturbed. I spoke with many of them. What do you want to be? I want to be a boxer. [laughter] Well, and many of them wanted to do other things. Some wanted to play basketball or volleyball or become musicians. I said, from this place we will get at least three national teams, [laughter] if it were up to those kids. Sports were made for this kind of child, for the hyperactive child, because he can spend all day and night playing basketball or playing volleyball. They are extremely active. They have an inexhaustible supply of energy, although of course one has to fuel it. [laughter] [Castro laughs] Fuel for that moving machine. They can become very useful citizens, citizens who are outstanding in many fields.

But this requires special personnel, well prepared, who love their vocations. This is the type of student they have to treat. Well, we have cases of [word indistinct], of deaf-mutes, and cases of speech disorders. This problem with speech is the most prevalent and the teachers are not only in the special schools.

There are special schools for the most severe problems. But there are about 20,000 instructors for speech problems. Is this right?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] You have plenty of professionals of this type. They say that they are in the child care center, they are in the regular schools. [indistinct voice] Pass that piece of paper over, Fernando, because I saw it [words indistinct] [laughter] You are right. It says number of [word indistinct] 1,375. Now, the number of children taken care of is 47,223. That is a lot. [Words indistinct] It is a special education but not in special schools. In the child care centers, 7,991. What is the total number of children in the centers?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] In the regular primary schools there are 24,384 students who receive these classes. In the special schools there are 14,299. That is a lot. But I do not want to say that they have this problem alone; they have others. The number is high but the special school is dedicated especially to this type of teaching....

[Speaker, interrupting] There are 307 kids in special schools.

[Castro] In Havana?

[Speaker] In the country.

[Castro] In the entire country. But in Havana did they make any of this type or not? No.

[Speaker] There are two.

[Castro] Two of the 24. Of the previously existing ones or the new ones?

[Speaker] Two new ones.

[Castro] Two new ones for this specialty. [indistinct voices] Yes. Well, but is not this the one for speech disorders? It means that many of the students of the special schools have speech disorders. This is what it means. And, thus, there are 14,299 of the 55,000. [as heard]

[Speaker] And there are 200 plus students more [words indistinct].

[Castro] Of course. The diagnostics and orientation center has 424.

[Speaker] Yes, and even the center has [word indistinct] of other types.

[Castro] The reeducation center has 115, right? The schools for those with visual impairments or amblyopia are practically hospitals. Children receive education and receive treatment for their problems, and these are resolved. There are schools for more severe visual problems, for blindness. We have not visited them, but we will do so another time. But I imagine that such schools have very specific features to be able to teach. There are two schools like this one, for those with perceptual and motor limitations, according the comrade who spoke here. And we have seen that these children require very special attention and they need very loving people. For this as for all other work in the special schools. I think this speaks highly of the quality of our teachers who choose this type of work and this task. This type of school is possible—thanks to the builder and the teaching staff.

Of course the schools, as I was saying, have their special characteristics. When visiting one of these schools, as soon as one arrives, one begins to see things like a young girl in a wheel chair who gave me a scissors to cut the ribbon. And in spite of [words indistinct], they welcome us. And this school begins [words indistinct] brought by a bunch of children here, for the activities of the inauguration. This school should be seen in 3, 4 or 5 months, it will be impressive. In other places one sees the wheelchairs, for example, or the equipment of various types which are both produced in this country and imported, both manually-operated and electric, and you start to have important details. Such as, what are the weak points of the chair which we manufacture? Around the feet. In what way is the chair which we manufacture uncomfortable, in the part where you put your arm? What is uncomfortable about the seat, that the lateral bar on which the seat rests not be too tight.

Everything, including how it moves, is important. The weight of the chair, the movement of the front wheels, all these details are important. Now we have look at them one by one, because our country has started to make the

chairs. We have solved many problems, because these chairs are not only made for children, these chairs are made for thousands and thousands of persons who need them permanently or for a period of time. You should be in contact with the factory, that is the [Caibadil] factory. Let us see whether all of them can be made of uniform quality at least. At least the ones we use here. And in other schools they should be of very special quality in these small details. Because I am sure [words indistinct] to perfect it they will have to spend a little more, in the movement, in the quality of the movement. Those are the chairs. And you begin to see the equipment, now that it has arrived. The typewriters on which they will learn to type, the workshops where they will learn to print books, and many other workshops.... [changes thought].

They need a clockmaking workshop, for example, for these children. A job they could learn and work at perfectly well. They have here around 6 or 7 workshops, not all of them assembled. [Word indistinct] you have to pay attention to everything; what the dining area is like and what the tables are like where these children must eat; what the beds are like, how they go to bed and how they get up; how they go to the bathroom, which ones cannot go to the bathroom; how to teach them to bathe themselves, dress themselves. They consider a thousand important psychological factors which they learn in order to fend for themselves as much as possible. But everything has to be constructed for this. The dining rooms have to be spacious. The bedrooms, the dining rooms, everything has to be large so that they can get around. For this reason, this school has an area of 8,000 square meters.

I asked the director about their diet. They have a special diet which is low in calories, given the type of activity which they can, and cannot, engage in. Later we saw the bus in which they have to be carried. It was made in this country. They said what they have is not sufficient, they need more. We hope that if there is someone here from the mechanics industry, that person take the steps for.... [changes thought] How much do you need?

[Speaker] [reply inaudible]

[Castro] How many were ordered to be built?

[Speaker] [Words indistict] we need three.

[Castro] We have three? You have two.

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] We will receive five? They are working on the other three. He was saying we still need five.

[Speaker] We have two. We need three.

[Castro] But when you have the 150, 200 students here, or the 150 interns, how many buses will you need?

[Speaker] Five.

[Castro] Five. These buses need to have steps in the back, and an elevator as well. The steps are lowered, the child enters with his wheelchair and the elevator lifts the student. In the home of each one of these children the bus has to stop and carry out this operation. The wheelchair is kept in the back of the bus. They do not ride sitting in the wheelchair. They need to sit down. Thus, there is the problem of transporting the children from their homes to the schools. Of course, these children used to be taught in their homes, by teachers you call traveling teachers. There was a great number of teachers dedicated to teaching these children in the school. And they did not have schools but [word indistinct] a child alone at home.

The attention they receive, the exercise they do—because here we have the gymnasium, too—to learn all that is needed in order to be able to look after themselves. Including with certain [words indistinct] to climb some stairs with certain equipment for that, which they learn to use. It is a very sophisticated institution, not just any school. It really is a school which requires certain special conditions.

We also saw the facility for the children with visual impairments or amblyopia. They have an area for special games which they are taught in braille. [Words indistinct] throw a ball in a straight line against some pins. All of these games are directed towards correcting their visual impairments. They have quite sophisticated equipment in the laboratory, in which the children do exercises all day. They also have special desks so they can get up and sit down, and certain types of beds there [words indistinct].

These are very good institutions, like the one we visited this afternoon. The ones for type-one behavior [as heard] and [words indistinct] are a little bit different because they have workshops which teach mechanics and construction. And they are producers, of course. The school for visually impaired children also has its hydroponic plants, which are watered using microjets. They themselves carry out some of these activities, if they can. There, in the schoolyard, in addition to the play area which is especially designed for them. This over here for hyperactive children, this has everything. Well, the one we inaugurated not long ago over by [La Lisa] had a great production of chickens, rabbits and eggs. There is also a shed for the chickens for the production of eggs and meat. They also grow hydroponic plants. And they have sports fields of every kind. They have a large basketball court and a volleyball field. The basketball field looked fairly large to me, it seemed to have the official measurements. I think it should be somewhat smaller, right?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] Official measurements. And an area prepared for a baseball field. Because the children like sports,these schools are going to see that they have everything. The school has musical groups, musical instruments, good sleeping quarters, an excellant dining room. These are

the conditions which have been created in these schools. These are not ordinary schools—although today there are no longer any ordinary schools left of any kind.

I have not seen the school for the deaf. I imagine that there would be some very interesting things there. I have defined the nature of these schools. They are costly, in general, and where they are like this one they are even costlier. This one even has a running track and a basketball court. These schools are expensive. Their maintenance is costly. The comrades of the education sector themselves have been reducing the staff. Now a school like this for some 200 students has about 79 workers, according to estimates. The one for the visually impaired we saw in the afternoon, what was its staff? Sixty. These schools are more expensive, of course. But they are essential. Let us wait for the plane to go by [sounds of plane overhead].

They are essential. This is not the best place for the ceremony. It is the best school, but not the best site. What were we talking about when the plane passed? [audience: "the staff"] Oh, yes, the staff. That was the last thing I wanted to talk about.

The staff is being reduced. I asked around. There are four buses and what do the four drivers do, and when they arrive, do they sit down to rest? No, no. They attend to potatoes in the kitchen, they work here, there, and they enjoy it. And they are well utilized. Because you cannot have some gentleman, a driver, arrive at 8 am and spend the whole day sitting there until he goes to work in the afternoon. That kind of person doing more than one job is essential. We fill all the positions with personnel. The service personnel, whom I have not mentioned, are very important also. I talked with the cook wherever I went and I asked them where they had learned, studied. How were the conditions for cooking, if they had everything they needed, because they are very important persons in the schools and factories.

Now, even though it is expensive, the revolution has to assume these responsibilities. In capitalism, nobody takes on these responsiblities, nor does the government care about any of this. Whoever can, whoever has money, can pay for very expensive institutions. I would go so far as to say that an institution like this in the United States would cost at least—this is a low estimate—$1,200 [as heard]. What do you think, Fernando? More than double that? Let us find a millionaire to whom we could write a little letter and ask. [laughter] For a university student it costs about about $1,000-plus. You are probably right—a school like this would cost at least $2,000 in the United States, for the students. Let us confirm this. Afterwards, in a ceremony, we will explain it. [Words indistinct] they are rich people, to be able to send a child to an institution like this, for visual handicaps.

I do not know if they have this type of special school for behavioral problems, or what they do for speech problems, but a special schools system does not exist in capitalism. And in Cuba, of course they never existed. If there were three or four schools, that was something. Zoila, how many were there?

[Speaker] Before the triumph of the revolution?

[Castro] Yes.

[Speaker] [Words indistinct] there were two or three.

[Castro] Two or three?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] Two or three. Capitalism cannot deal with this—they do not give a damn about this type of institution. Often they are charity institutions cared for by nuns. They cannot find the people. It is not the only type of hard work. Remember that the hospitals here, for example psychiatric hospitals, require very hard work, it requires vocation. There are hospitals for the handicapped, people who cannot move. There are many types of hospitals where the work is very hard. And our people have trained citizens in sufficient numbers to take care of this task, this activity. There is a sufficient number of people with the necessary vocation and dedication to do this work. And I think that this type of person deserves special recognition from society, because this is a very humane type of work.

Now, in other occasions we have talked about some of these facts. I would like to repeat some of the indices, because they give an idea of the effort we have made in this field. Havana fulfilled its program. It built 24 schools, created capacity for more than 5,000 places. Not all were new places. Some of them were dedicated to replacing installations that were not up to this task. About 1,800, Zoila said, and about 3,000 new places. But the almost 12,000 children who need special education in the City of Havana have it already. But not in the rest of the country.

The program started a year earlier in the capital, when the minibrigade movement was reborn. Everything done in the capital is done immediately afterwards in the rest of the country. The rest of the country is [word indistinct] in its day care program, polyclinic program, special schools program. Havana gave a big push to this. Now, in the interior of the country, hundreds of day care centers are needed. They are constructing them. Dozens and dozens of polyclinics, I do not know the total figure, Havana needed 20, maybe about 100 total. The country needed a total of 204 special schools, 204. Now we have to subtract these 24 for the capital. That is 180. And how many will they finish this year, Fernando?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] Some 141 to be built this year. We will have to build more, right? [Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] We need 141 special schools. [Words indistinct] We have to push this, to see if we can finish ahead of schedule. Note that the ministry's estimates as to the

number of special schools needed is for 80,000 students, 80,000 children and adolescents in this country need this type of school. I was working it out. How does Havana solve the problem with 12,000, or almost 12,000? Proportionately, it is supposed that with about 60,000, it would be solved for the entire country. Yesterday, when I was talking to Fernando, I asked him what was happening. There are provinces in the country where the rate of psychological retardation and even of mental retardation is greater. This requires study. Is there an occurrence of inbreeding, for example? What are the causes, the factors? We have to study it from the educational point of view and from the point of view of the Ministry of Health. Why we have regions in the country with a higher rate to prove this, and whether the unit of measurement is equal. But we have to see what the factors are because there can be historical factors of some type as to why there are areas, zones in the country with higher rates of mental retardation. That is why the figure rises to 80,000. I would like, Fernando, to see if next year we can do, if not very indepth research, at least come up with some ideas as to the causes behind this problem. What historical, social factors can be influencing the fact that there is a higher level in some provinces than in others.

I was talking about this near Marianao, where there is a relatively high rate of infant mortality. There are municipalities which are at five, six. Can the number of unhealthy neighborhoods in one or another municipality exert an influence? There could also be other phenomena. The number of birth defects was relatively high. They are also studying why, in the municipality, there are factors influencing a higher rate of birth defects. There are many studies that have to be done in order to see what man can do to confront this type of situation. Above all to know the factors and pay special attention because today many procedures can be found. Not all reasons for birth defects will be discovered. But why there are certain causes leading to the most numerous defects will be discovered by means of systems developed in this country. Types of reagents [reactivo], of electronic equipment, computers that take a drop of blood and analyze it, and say, well, there is an allergy. The boy is allergic. Let me say that the number of allergic persons in this country is high, people with varying degrees of allergy is 12 percent. All the children in the country, when they are born, are in a hospital; they send a little piece of the umbilical cord to the laboratory, and when they see a parasite, they say this child has an allergy, with high incidence. Or he is allergic but with a lower intensity. They say, you have to breast-feed them, you have to do this. And they do everything they have to do so that the child does not get sick, even so that later he grows and does not develop a disease. Some allergies can be cleared up in the first 6 months. And maybe in 3, 4 years they cannot cure it. If they do not clear it up during this time, then they cannot do so later on. It is of the highest importance. These are programs we are carrying out in this country, and other countries do not have the same.

Now, I believe that we must shorten the time for this program as much as possible, because if we need about 140 and we build 22 a year, it would take us 7 years to have all the schools. I would like to propose 5 years, not more, to build about 30 schools throughout the country. We must talk to all the comrades of the People's Government, of the party in the provinces. It is not much more we are asking for. But at least we will not exceed 5 years to fulfill the program. We also have to build vocational schools. There is a program.... [changes thought] How many vocational schools do we plan for, Fernando?

[Speaker] Some 146.

[Castro] We must build 146 vocational schools in the country for all those young kids who do not study, who do not study or work—and you know where those kids end up. For this reason, we place great importance on these vocational schools and we have a strong program for the vocational schools. Because we are building day care centers, polyclinics, special schools, we have to build vocational schools. Thus, we have to see how construction capacity grows in the provinces so that we carry out this program within a reasonable timeframe. When we have 80,000 children who need special schools, already studying in special schools, we will have what no other country in the world has. And of course, of these the most pressing will be given priorty. The schools for visual handicaps must be given priority. The schools for physical impairments must be given priority. Now we are having to build another one in Santiago. They told me that they are studying as to whether it may be necessary to build another one in the central part of the island. To this school students from the interior will also come. Students come here from Pinar del Rio, Matanzas, and from Havana Province. They come from about four provinces. We have to build it in the central part of the country, because you cannot move children from Camaguey to, say, Santiago de Cuba. There is a geographical necessity to the site. We should give it priority.

All those dealing with students' physical problems, Fernando, need to have priority in the construction program. And then we do the others that are important also, but meanwhile I forgot to tell you: There are 200 classrooms of special education in addition to the schools. There are 469 special schools. There about 56,500 students in these schools. But in addition, there are 200 classrooms for special education in regular schools, with a total of 11,500 students. They receive special education one way or another, but they do not have all the conditions they would have in a special school. They are improvised classrooms. Of course, I do not think that at this point there is a country with a greater development in special education than Cuba. I am not making a comparison with the poor Latin Americans, what they might have done in this [changes thought] if they do not have the other kind, to teach a child to read and write, you can guess whether they have special schools. This has resulted from the progress our

society has made, the considerable progress in our revolution. But 100 percent of our students who need special schools will have it, and that will put us in a unique position, because I have never heard of this anywhere else. Nevertheless, I believe that nobody doubts the importance of this school. If we have hyperactives, let them employ all that energy in a manner which is useful to the country. If there is mental backwardness, and man does not find the solution, if the problem can be solved, to turn all these people into citizens useful to the country. If there is psychological retardation, if there are visual or health handicaps, the problem must be solved and in addition they must be educated. Even if a person is blind, he must be educated and prepared for life. If a person is deaf, if he has serious hearing impairments, he must also be prepared for life. If a person is not educated, his mental capacity is retarded. If he cannot communicate with others, who will question the usefulness of these institutions?

We want to build a just society, and in order to do so we must solve human problems and find answers. That is what the revolution is all about. That is what we are working for, that is what we are building for. That is why we are trying to become economically developed. We are no longer dealing with a problem of 1 million illiterate people, or about a remote area in the mountains that does not have a teacher, or a child without a school in this country. This is no longer an issue. But these issues have placed our country in a unique position. Let us see what the capitalists and imperialists say about it, whether they can solve these societal problems. Yesterday I spoke to you about the number of people who die of the cold during a cold wave, because there are hundreds and thousands of old people in the streets, in those magnificent Yankee cities. There are a lot of neon signs, a lot of noise and a lot of things, but hundreds of thousands of old people. Dozens and dozens of children left with no contact with their parents, because they were taken away or they left and were never found again, in that country. And there are hundreds and thousands of poor people. I could make a comparison between Havana and Washington. Washington's infant mortality rate is three times higher than that of Havana. I would like to ask in what capitalist country there are teachers who teach children who cannot leave their homes. I would like to ask them that. Or whether children who have any type of physical handicap have special schools for them, and free of charge. We must ask the capitalists [words indistinct]. These are dehumanized societies. And with more serious problems than we have. They have drugs there. [words indistinct] they have no way to stop it. [Words indistinct] even education suffers from great deficiencies. [words indistinct] They do what they can to take things away from others. When drugs are not important to them they produce them synthetically. And now they try to blame the Latin Americans for this problem. They are to be blamed for the Latin Americans' problems, with the fabulous sums of money that circulate, above all in the United States. But not only in the United States. The money is for drugs. And they do not stop it—they have no way to stop it, because they produce it synthetically. Almost all the marijuana produced is produced in the United States. They say the value of the marijuana produced in the United States is greater than what they produce in corn—and they are the largest producer of corn in the world. The marijuana growers earn more from marijuana than corn farmers do from corn. They have other types of drugs and they have synthetic drugs.

These are problems that, fortunately, our healthy society does not have. The delinquency index is rising and must rise. Because all those with psychological problems, children who are mentally retarded, if they are left to their own devices, what is the result—delinquency. Moreover, that society promotes delinquency. Thus I must ask, what do the capitalists say about this. It is not just one program any more. The country is undertaking a lot of programs: Health, general education programs, hundreds of thousands of young people in our universities, whether as regular students or as workers who are studying there. Computer classes have spread to all universities, to the intermediate levels. For next year they will be at the secondary level and in youth clubs that have been and are being formed. Also, for those students who did not have the opportunity to study computer education in the university, so they study it now, to develop in many youths a vocation and interest in computer education.

We are developing many programs and we will develop them at a faster rate. The housing program, Maximo said that for this year they finished 9,500. But many more are needed. We spoke of that: What is to be done? When will we break the barrier of 15,000—and I think we will approach the barrier of 15,000 next year, because the following year we must break 20,000. We initially thought of breaking the record in 1990, but we cannot. There is much to do, we have had to reconstruct the materials industry and build dozens and dozens of new lines. I also explained this recently when we inaugurated the brick factory. How much construction material will we have? I said that we started the program with 11, by the end of next year we will have a capacity of 55 million, in blocks alone [as heard]. Everything is increasing, blocks, tile, mosaics, brick. I explained all the matters related to cement and what we have to do to have enough. The blocks need cement also—how to save it, reduce it, how to work. We are working in this direction. How we will make use of iron rods and use them in construction. We learned how to save wood, and now we are using it not three or four times, but 10, 15, 20, 30 times. Wood for construction is not increasing. Of course, if a house needs a frame and windows, this cannot be saved, but the other that is used in smelting, that can be saved and has been saved to a great extent. That is how we will solve the problem. I will not talk any more about housing, except to explain our program. We can work with other elements—stone, sand. The [Purio] plant was built at top speed. Steps are being taken to increase production and guarantee production for the

[Vacranes] plant that has to send stone and sand here. Important mills are being set up in the appropriate provinces, new sand purification plants. We are guaranteeing all the materials. We have the manpower, those 38,000 laying bricks and blocks can contribute, can perfectly well contribute more than 15,000 dwellings. If more are needed, we will give more. We are not going to work only on new housing programs, but also on the repair program for all those buildings that require this. And we have asked the people's Government for a figure for the minimum number of buildings which will be repaired in the coming year. We are going to work towards both goals: New dwellings and repair of buildings.

I think in 1991 we will have enough, with all that we are doing, barring a catastrophe—barring war, aggression, or problems of that nature. In 1991 will all that we are doing we should be able to exceed 20,000 apartments. This is what I want to talk to you about at the beginning of 1990, in order to see what problems we still have and how we can solve them.

The bus terminal program in the capital is advanced. It should be finished during the first 6 months. The program for the central markets is coming to an end. The small markets program should be completed in the coming year and we will be starting another program. The Pan American buildings will be nearly completed in the coming year, by 31 December. There will be very little which will remain to be done on the Pan American buildings in 1991.

There are other programs left. There is a program to systematically repair potholes with approximately 30 brigades. They will cover all the routes and will have a leveling cylinder, a compressor, and asphalt in a tank, like what was used for repairing roads in the mountains. We are adquiring all of the elements for this program. We are going to have a program to repair the exits, and use about 60 brigades independently of the ones in the municipality, which are a lot. Studying the streets [words indistinct] a program of repair of the drainage network which is very important. We are obtaining equipment, we are manufacturing equipment and organizing brigades for this program. Year by year we are doing more and more repairs on this network.

We also have a highway program. Some of these programs will take many years to complete. We have drainage programs for rivers which sometimes flood, like that one we are carrying out in the Almendares. This is very important. We have a bakery program. You say this year we built 20?

[Speaker] Some 23.

[Castro] And last year, some 35. And how many are left, 65, sixty-some bakeries? It is better to have warm bread there around the corner. There were many problems with the large bakeries. We have demonstrated what the public prefers, right?

Now, we have a prototype for the primary and secondary schools which the capital needs. All of the kids are studying now, of course, but not all of them are studying under the best conditions. There are many classrooms which do not have anything and we propose to resolve this problem. This is a big program. For this reason, it is going to take us some time to gradually expand the primary and secondary school program. But it is not going to be something for the next century, do not think that. We will see how much constructive elbow grease we have and how all our materials industries respond. Because the workforce will not be the reason if we fail to make those installations. And we dream of a day in which there will be adequate schools for all children.

We are now building some schools in the south, 30 preparatory schools, which are being built by the Blas Roca contingent plus one or two built by the minibrigade of Havana. Two. Will there be a total of 32 or 30 schools? Thirty. We are carrying out that school program in the south because we have thousands and thousands of pre-university students in the city. These installations they have we can put to other educational uses. The 30 which we are building for pre-university students in Havana, in the south of Havana, are schools for the capital. Because they have very good facilities, they can be used for other educational needs. But I repeat, we dream of the day when all children will have adequate schools. When all the primary schools have day care for the mothers who work. We are not doing anything with the child care center. For a 7-year-old child who is in school, in second grade, and does not have anyone to care for him at home. We are even thinking of day care in the secondary schools for the children of working mothers. Some of them who are 12 or 13 years old have to go alone to their homes and cook or prepare meals. In conclusion, we need to have a comprehensive and guaranteed system which will benefit all children and, in the case of working parents, will favor the children as well as the parents and give them some peace.

In a short period of time we have finished three programs: Child care centers, polyclinics and special schools. We already know about the child care centers. Children will continue to be born. But not only that, there has been an increase in demand after the child care centers were built. There were people who never thought about child care centers, or were not in such a tight situation or who had a solution of some sort. We have a demand of approximately 19,000. Facilities will be created to hold a capacity of 25,000 and now [words indistinct] what are we going to do [words indistinct] and workers. Here you have 79, most of whom are young women. These 24 or 25 special schools represent about 1,200 or 1,500 workers—most of whom are women. In the polyclinics, almost all are women. And in the family clinics, most are women. All of the nurses are women. The 115 child care centers alone which have been built have meant work for almost 6,000 women. But there has been a rationalizing, they have been rationalized, they have been reduced, but the number of women who join

them is increasing continually. It seems to me that this can be explained in part by growth, but mainly because many people who previously did not think about the centers, with the prestige and the quality which the child care centers have acquired, people are now thinking about child care centers.

We have to study this carefully. I was speaking to Lezcano yesterday. I said, Lezcano, let us maintain a steady, yearly increase in the number of child care centers. It does not have to be 60, nor 50, nor 40, nor 30, nor 20 but perhaps 8 or 10 per year in order not to get out of the habit, out of practice. [laughs] Some child care centers [changes thought] although we will give priority to housing and these other problems, we must not abandon the social development institutions. Housing also means many things. It means a lack of recreation, and one has to work in the metropolitan park, work has to continue on the zoo which they should finish soon.

There is also a lack of all kinds of service centers. And we have to grow accordingly, now that we have the construction capacity, now that we are construction champions—as the facts have shown. And we are going to do more, now that the contingents are multiplying. Yesterday I met with the contingent which build one of the two polyclinics of the [word indistinct]. They took advantage of this opportunity to ask us for some equipment. They had already received some. And I asked them what. Well, they said they would need 3 trucks. Which kind? Well, [Camay], but [Camay] are too large for this. We need three 500-liter concrete mixers and one earth-moving crane. I asked which kind. The 33-22 would work. I said, are you sure the 33-22 would work? They said yes. I said, are they too much for the number of projects you have? They said, well, but we can help the municipality. And I said, keep asking but mark what I say, with one condition. [repeats] Keep asking but with one condition. If you ask for one thing which you do not need, I will take away all of the other things which I offered to you. [laughter] They stopped right there. [laughter] We talked a bit about the concrete mixers which they had and a small reserve which I have of the 500-liters, and we settled on two plus one they had, three, plus four of the 160 you manufacture there, and that is more or less what they have.

But I thought, these same contingents of city are doing good work even though they lack and are quite poorly equiped. I met with those from western Havana. They were working with cranes but they have a lot of problems; they depend on one which the municipality has loaned them. I promised them a [word indistinct] pneumatic lift to lower things and which would serve to set up some columns and some parts. This one over here, poor guy, this one has nothing at all, not even a truck. The one building the central market—we gave them something. The other day I met with some people from a materials industry who are building the central market in eastern Havana. Those are poor guys too. I offered them some help. I think that these contingents created by the city, in addition to the Blas Roca contingent, should be consolidated. Marco's is a great contingent. They are working on many projects of the kind which never get an inauguration. Do not think these projects which get inaugurated are the only ones. They are working on hundreds of projects: In hospitals they are doing one thing, elsewhere they are building laundries or kitchens, some place else they are installing medical equipment. Hundreds of projects. They are a tremendous construction force. I believe we will do with them what we did with the Blas Roca.

In addition, we have to solve for that group the problem that they do not have any construction brigades for housing. Take from the government's portion to solve things for those people. Because this one building [Julio Dia], I was asking about it. This contingent is doing good work. It has been given some equipment. How many contingents do we have in the city besides the Blas Roca—of those like Marco's or those building in Julio Dia or like those which have helped to build it. We have eight?

[Speaker] Eight for construction. Because we have the comrades of [word indistinct], that is the ninth, we have the comrades....

[Castro, interrupting] We have to study the situation. [indistinct comments from audience] We have to study this force because it is working very well. We can perfect it, give it better equipment so they have what they need. They have to be differentiated from the minibrigades. Those who we have taken from the minibrigades to form contingents total 2,000?

[Speaker] There is presently around 1,700 but we want to reach around 3,000....

[Castro, interrupting] They are a tremendous force. [indistinct comment from audience] What? They are a good group. [words indistinct] where Marco's is and the other?

[Speaker] [reply indistinct]

[Castro] Ah, yes. This is a good group. We awarded it a banner the other day in Antillana [words indistinct]. Well, the city has to be prepared. It is much better that 2 years ago. The question of construction materials and of the means, what we have been able to accomplish in 2 years is phenomenal. And of course, our peak will come in 1991, not 1990. In 1990, they are going to produce 33 million blocks, 10 million more than in this year, in addition to the new brick factory which can produce bricks for about 4,000 dwellings—if it were dedicated solely to the construction of walls for housing. We are doing much better in 1990. And we can jump ahead, above all in the area of housing without abandoning other programs. And in 1991, we will have the harvest of materials which we have been sowing in these years.

As you can see I almost forgot that it is 31 December. [laughter] I almost forgot that you have to go home. I am

taking advantage of this as the last ceremony of the year, although yesterday they asked me a few questions in an improvised way and recorded my responses as well as a message, a message for the people. And I said the message I sent the people is a message I can send to myself. I said a few words. It was taped just yesterday during a ceremony. This is really the last ceremony, with you. You people here today are not all from the special schools or builders, but there are people from the capital as well. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to congratulate all of the builders, all of the microbrigade workers, all of the educators, all of the workers of the capital, for what they have done, for the growing consciousness which they have demonstrated, for the things we have to do next year.

I am not going to talk about the hard times. We are always prepared for hard times. Is that right? [Crowd shouts: Yes] Are almost all of us members of the territorial militia? [Crowd shouts: Yes] Have most of us have learned to use firearms? [Crowd shouts: Yes] Have nearly all of us [words indistinct]? [Crowd shouts: Yes] And fulfill the revolutionary slogan?

We are not going to let what we have built be destroyed. Those who destroy it will have to pay very dearly for it. Very dearly. And what they destroy, we will rebuild, and we will do it even better. Yes, we were comparing two schools which had nearly the same plan, that of Guanabacoa and that of [La Lisa]. And the director of the other one, which we inaugurated 2 years ago, was saying: This is better. And the kitchen, too, is much better. If one day were were forced to rebuild things we would do it much better. And not even this will discourage us. We will always be prepared for the worst.

But we are also prepared for the best, in order to carry forward all of our plans for present and future generations. [Words indistinct] not only because of its spirit, but also because of its presence. They appear bigger, better nourished, better developed. It is the truth. You laugh because you cannot compare with yourselves. [laughter] You see that the other is the same height.

Yesterday we had an emotional encounter with some grandmothers and grandfathers. The grandmothers had a choir, an excellent choir. This encounter was very emotional. I also talked about this yesterday. I will not repeat it now. But I will say that we are preparing also for the best and are fighting for the best. We know that we work without anyone giving us anything and without anyone having to give us anything. With our effort, our sweat, our intelligence, with these marvelous results which are resulting from our educational institutions, we can accomplish what we set out to do.

As you have seen in this program, in barely 2 years we have accomplished things and we are already moving on and going after other things. And our programs are becoming more ambitious all the time. And we will make our country what we want it to be. We are a patriotic people, a brave people. We deserve our independence, our development, our future. We are not fighting for a consumer society. We will produce all that we need to produce for our material well-being. Of course we are not going to live in the alienated way they live in some societies where one can choose between a new color television or an ounce of cocaine.

We work for a humane society, really humane. They are shameless, those who talk about humanism and even about human rights while elderly people die in the streets during a cold wave, and children are lost, and sick people die without assistance. God knows what humane qualities that filth called capitalism can have.

A society like ours is much different. As I was saying, [word indistinct] the child from the day it is born. Our society is concerned about a child from the day it is conceived by the parents. [Words indistinct] the child begins to receive care. And human welfare in every sense. Look up how many people are given assistance by the revolution. Even people who are left alone because their relatives are gone, and other cases. How many are given assistance in a quiet way by the revolution through the system of social security. Our society is concerned about the human being from before birth, until the last second of life. And all that we do is for this. And we will know how to do everything better all the time. In the name of our hopes for the future, of that which we will do today and tomorrow, I congratulate you all. Socialism or death! Fatherland or death! We will win!

Haiti

Organizations Call For Anti-Avril Actions

FL1101191390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] In a statement issued yesterday by four organizations—the Association of Youth of the Masses of Port-au-Prince (Ajepopo), the Haitian Workers Committee (COH), the Students Affairs (ZEL), and the Committee of the [?National] Alliance of People's Organizations—announce that they are calling for a general strike on 12 January and a demonstration on 13 January to prevent General Avril from returning to Haiti. The alternative, for these four organizations, is for a civilian government to take power to ensure the transition to democracy and organize the elections.

Listen to Jude L. Jean-Jacques reading this statement in the name of the four organizations.

[Begin Jean-Jacques recording] The situation of the Haitian people is deteriorating daily under the Duvalierists' heavy-handed, repressive policy. Despite all the rising up in protest aimed at blocking the action of these criminals, they always employ the force of heavy-caliber weapons against democracy.

The entire world can see that Prosper Avril is becoming increasingly unpopular because of the ongoing theft,

insecurity, repression, corruption, administrative disorder, dismissals, and violence. The only victims of the force of this macabre government are the Haitian masses.

We serious members of people's organizations, union federations, political parties, democratic organizations, professional organizations, and civilian society think there should be an end to this so the Haitian people can take their destiny in hand with a view to real change.

Therefore, we are shouldering before history our responsibility to keep Gen Avril and all his acolytes abroad. First, we call for a 24-hour general strike on 12 January. Second, on 13 January, there will be large demonstrations throughout Haiti. There must be no let up!

These actions will intensify daily, so we can succeed in blocking Prosper Avril and all the criminal detectives who left with him. [end recording]

Assemblage Also Calls for Action

FL1101174490 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] According to a 10 January press release from the National Assemblage, the Assemblage is calling for a strike and a peaceful demonstration on 12 January to end the personal government of Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. The National Assemblage asks the population throughout Haiti to rise up in protest to the distressing situation in Haiti.

Gen Avril departed for a foreign country, with his entire family and all his friends, without giving the Haitian people any explanation as to why he was going. He left behind for the population a high cost of living, insecurity, and the International Monetary Fund, which (?are) oppressing all sectors in Haiti. All the active sectors working in Haiti are handicapped because of the bad economic policy of Gen Prosper Avril's government.

Gen Avril left his unruly repressive machine behind to oppress the people. Things are all the more serious when the judiciary, which should guarantee the rights of all citizens, remains passive. This judiciary is allowing Jean Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, Etienne Marineau, and Patrick Beauchard to continue to rot in jail without reason.

The National Assemblage, which says it has a mandate from the Haitian people to further the people's demands, asks the Haitian people to support the mobilization they are calling for to put an end to all the forms of dictatorship and repression that have been oppressing the Haitian people for such a long time.

For all these reasons, the National Assemblage asks the population from the four corners of Haiti to observe, on 12 January, a general strike, which should go hand in hand with street (?demonstrations). This means that all work, commerce, and school should cease. At the same time, the people should take to the streets to demonstrate to say "no" to Gen Avril's personal government. The demonstrating should continue until 15 January.

According to the National Assemblage, it is necessary for all the nation's sectors—merchants, industrialists, professionals, university students, school children, street vendors, and the entire population of the nine geographical departments of Haiti—to unite in ending Gen Avril's personal government.

Diverse organizations that are members of the National Assemblage—political parties, union organizations, and people's organizations—sign this press release calling for this large assembly. On 12 January there is to be a strike and a demonstration.

PDCH Issues Press Release on Avril's Trip

FL1101150390 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The Haitian Christian Democratic Party, PDCH, today talks about the departure of General Prosper Avril to the Republic of China. In a press release today, the PDCH says there are several comments, each stranger than the other, about Gen Avril's leaving for Taipei accompanied by a delegation of relatives and friends without giving any explanation. He should have given the nation an explanation of the exact, true purpose of this trip to China.

The PDCH, which has never kept quiet its opinions regarding the climate of distrust that the current government has created among the Haitian people (?and) regarding the manuevering to keep Gen Avril in power by any and all means, is now convinced that Gen Avril's government, as all strata of Haitian society have now noted, undeniably constitutes an obstacle to change and to the blooming of democracy—the democracy the Haitian people have been seeking for some time.

The PDCH says it thinks the time has come for the Haitian people to rid themselves, once and for all, of the tyranny being installed in Haiti more and more each day. The PDCH says all Haitian people should notify China that it must keep the general, and that the Haitian people will not allow him to return.

The PDCH press release continues: The countries that claim to love democracy and that are seeking to have human rights respected in all countries must help Haiti to make progress in that direction, so democracy can blossom in Haiti.

The PDCH once again reiterates the call made by six political parties on 15 November 1989, when they demanded that Gen Prosper Avril resign unconditionally and that power be turned over to the Court of Cassation under the terms of Article 149 of the Constitution of 1987.

This is a press release from the PDCH.

Commercial Banks Admit To Deficit Problems

FL1101160790 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A local banker, who asked to remain anonymous, has told the daily paper LE NOUVELLISTE that private, commercial banks in Haiti admit to a deficit to the central bank of close to $30 million. This man's statements, published in the 8 January edition of LE NOUVELLISTE, noted a series of measures by the Banque de la Republique d'Haiti [BRH, the central bank] aimed at reducing the amount of gourdes in circulation. This has lead to enormous difficulties for the private, commercial banks because these measures resulted in an increase in the interest rate for loans and savings. The discount rate [preceding two words in English] has gone from 11 to 23 percent. This is aimed at bringing about a reduction in th[illegible]mount of gourdes in circulation and, at the same [illegible]e. diminishing the propensity toward domestic spending. From a macroeconomic point of view, if these measures were to be followed by other actions aimed at (?making profitable) the production of public enterprises, they could improve the trade balance by diminishing imports.

LE NOUVELLISTE has learned that the Professional Association of Banks met on 4 January to discuss this matter and intends to send a diagnostic document to the central bank authorities.

President Salinas Discusses 1989 Accomplishments

PA0901231390 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 Jan 89

[Report by Ana Pelaez]

[Text] [Pelaez] President Salinas de Gortari has assessed the accomplishments of 1989 and affirmed that Mexico has won greater respect in the world. Before the military commanders who saluted him on New Year's at the main square of the National Palace, the president said:

[Begin Salinas recording] On our continent, we maintain that negotiations and the peaceful solution to conflicts, respecting self-determination and nonintervention as the fundamental principles, are the only ways for civilized nations to coexist. [end recording]

[Palaez] The president told Mexicans that this is the time to assess accomplisments but not to let our guard down. Only sustained efforts by each person will ensure a permanent victory and a true improvement in the living conditions of Mexicans. Salinas said the permanence of institutions is not an issue for debate at this time. There is a strong pluralism in the country and a widespread interest among citizens in participating in the solution of problems affecting us. There is also an overall interest in making the changes the country requires. The changes the country has endured have been possible because the use of authority has taken place within the context of laws, freedom, and democracy. Regarding the military, the president said:

[Begin Salinas recording] We are aware the Mexican Armed Forces have faced natural disasters efficiently and have displayed their solidarity with the civilian population in an organized manner. [end recording]

[Palaez] National Defense Secretary General Antonio Riviello Bazan has said that the government's effort to modernize the Armed Forces compels the military to make a greater effort and commitment to loyalty and services. Navy Secretary Admiral Mauricio Scheleske said that Mexico has a national plan in effect even during these days of deep and unpredictable changes.

The president also received New Year's greetings in private ceremonies from Cabinet members, Supreme Court justices, magistrates from the Fiscal Tribunal, Justice Tribunals, Administrative Disputes Court, Tribunal of Electoral Litigation, and the Courts of Conciliation and Arbitration of the Federal District.

Cooperation Agreement Renewed With Spain

PA1201043490 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0236 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report by Ana Cristina Pelaez]

[Text] [Pelaez] The Mexican and Spanish Governments have renewed the 1977 treaty of friendship and cooperation at Los Pino's Carranza Hall. In the presence of Spanish King Juan Carlos de Borbon and Queen Sophia, and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and Mrs Salinas, the Mexican and Spanish foreign ministers signed the renewed treaty. One of the highlights of this document is an annex for a $4 billion credit for Mexico. The goal of the agreement is to promote the development of the production and service sectors in Mexico, chiefly through exports and the help of Spanish businessmen. Moreover, $1.5 billion of this credit will be granted to businessmen in Spain to export goods and services to Mexico.

Mexican Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Andres Rosenthal read the five points agreed upon in the treaty during the signing ceremony:

[Begin Rosethal recording] Political Cooperation: In the field of political cooperation, Mexico and Spain agreed to increase reciprocal visits by heads of state and government to establish political dialogue and to conduct high-level talks to bring the positions of the two countries into harmony. In addition, the agreement notes the role assigned to the political subcommission as the mechanism for consultation and coordination on bilateral and international matters of mutual interest.

Economic Cooperation: The economic cooperation agreement states the commitment of the two governments to promote joint Spanish-Mexican development through means that help to vitalize and modernize the Mexican economy for a sum of up to $4 billion.

Scientific and technical cooperation: In this regard, Mexico and Spain agreed [words indistinct] cooperation for industrial development in the fields of tourism, the environment, public administration, and others.

Education and Cultural Cooperation: We agreed to promote the study and diffusion of the Spanish language, as well as academic exchanges among universities and institutes in the areas of research, higher learning, culture, journalism, and archives. We agreed to support the free circulation of cultural goods and services and the creation of cultural institutes and cooperation centers from one country in the capital of the other.

The agreement particularly stresses the two countries' desire to pay special attention to the struggle against terrorism, organized crime, and drug trafficking within the framework of the UN Convention Against Drug Trafficking.

As for consular cooperation, the two countries will offer protection, assistance, and their good offices to citizens of the counterpart in those countries where the counterpart does not have consular offices, in accordance with the legal norms of the recipient state. [end recording]

[Pelaez] In addition to the king and queen of Spain and the Mexican president and his wife, Spanish and Mexican businessmen, as well as media reprensentatives, witnessed the signing of the treaty.

There are over 500 Spanish companies of various kinds in Mexico. Those companies occupy the fifth or sixth place among the foreign investors in Mexico.

During a subsequent news conference, Mexican Foreign Minister Fernando Solana and Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez spoke to the press about the importance of the signing of the treaty:

[Begin recording] [Solana] At this time, when the framework of European and world relations is changing, it is very important that two countries so closely attached by history firmly decide to make efforts to strengthen their relations not only based on their common heritage, but also on a future that they are determined to build together.

That is the deep meaning of this treaty and of our relations with Spain, which have been strengthened with the visit of the king and queen of Spain.

[Fernandez] This very important official visit, during which we have signed such important documents, is first of all a friendly visit. This visit reflects the fullness of the current relations between Mexico and Spain. This is also a visit of trust in the efforts the Mexican people are making. This visit represents the trust that the Spanish Government, the Spanish political and social forces, and the many important businessmen present here have in Mexico. [end recording]

President To Visit Britain During European Tour

PA1101171690 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Alfredo Martinez]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari will visit Great Britain at the end of January as part of his European tour. British Ambassador to Mexico (Michael Simpson) said the results of the visit will be positive for Mexico. The ambassador also acknowledged that Mexico maintains social stability that is attractive to foreign investment.

The diplomat paid a courtesy visit to Emilio M. Gonzalez, chairman of the Senate's Grand Commission. Interviewed after the visit, Mr. (Simpson) ruled out a visit to Mexico by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the time being. He also announced that Great Britain and Mexico are presently discussing the terms of an agreement to strengthen the fight against drugs. Meanwhile, Senator Emilio M. Gonzalez stressed that Mexico is constantly strengthening its democracy, the only path open to the country.

Government Protests U.S. 'Drug Wars' Series

PA1101144790 Paris AFP in Spanish 0515 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jan (AFP)—The Mexican Government today strongly protested "slanderous and irresponsible commentaries" made during a U.S. television series on the February 1985 murder in Guadalajara, Mexico, of U.S. antinarcotics agent Enrique Camarena.

The series "Drug Wars" was broadcast on 7-9 January in three 2-hour programs that closed with a 15-minute period of interviews and commentaries by the director of the series and guests.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat has issued a communique noting that the mini-series "turns a regrettable incident, such as the death of Agent Camarena, into a ficticious story that includes inaccurate information, speculation, anonymous, and perhaps ill-intended accusations.

The official protest was channeled today through the Mexican ambassador to Washington Gustavo Petricioli and the Mexican consuls in Chicago, New York City, Los Angeles, and San Antonio.

The protest notes that Mexico "reiterates that the struggle against drugs must be seen as an integral problem that involves the production, distribution, and consumption of drugs and that this problem must be shared by the two countries."

President Carlos Salinas "views the struggle against drugs as a priority of national importance," the Foreign Secretariat communique states.

The communique mentions acknowledgements given to Mexico last year for its struggle against drug trafficking. The acknowledgements include one from U.S. President George Bush, another from U.S. Attorney General Richard Thornburgh, and, in the form of a letter, one from 67 U.S. senators.

Ambassador to U.S. Rejects Series

PA1101154190 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Favio Guzman in Washington—passages within quotes are recorded]

[Text] [Guzman] Gustavo Petricioli, Mexico's ambassador to Washington, energetically rejected as groundless a television broadcast anchored by Tom Brokaw, one of the television personalities most watched by U.S. audiences. Brokaw was described as immature by [name indistinct], the director of Project Mexico of the Center for International Strategic Studies. Meanwhile, (Larry Gerts), director of hemispheric affairs said this program only seeks commercial gains and bigger audiences.

Ambassador Petricioli outlined why Mexico fights drugs:

[Petricioli] "We all have a very serious problem with drugs and we need to fight it. The Mexican Government and society are committed to fighting this problem in our country with all we have, but not because of pressure from other countries—instead, because of our own conviction to protect our youths, our society, our sovereignty, and our national security. We also explained that as President Salinas has said, we are willing to make the greatest effort to cooperate, exchange information, and jointly attack this serious and complex problem. However, it is not the way to move ahead in this struggle, in this war, by making truly absurd comments that are frankly insulting to another country. This is what we wanted to clarify before public opinion."

[Guzman] Later, Ambassador Petricioli referred specifically to the comparison made between Mexico and what is taking place in other Latin American countries:

[Petricioli] "We carefully clarified how unjust, how absurd it is to make this type of comparison. We gave all types of information, evidence, and proof of the enormous effort Mexico has exerted to fight drugs over the past few years. The fact is that Mexico is exerting its utmost effort and we wish other countries did the same. We stress that the problem is not just one of production and trafficking, but of consumption. We must, therefore, work together. Charges such as these do not help solve the problem."

[Guzman] Later, Petricioli listed in detail what Mexico has done to fight drugs:

[Petricioli] "In Mexico's case, a truly unprecedented effort has been made. In just the past few months, more than 250 criminal organizations dedicated to drug trafficking have been dismantled in our country. We have confiscated unprecedented volumes of cocaine and other drugs. Our judicial system has managed to successfully prosecute those involved in these crimes; thousands have been jailed; security services have been replaced when it has been proven they have failed or are guilty of being involved in drugs; we have very good relations with the Justice Department, the DEA, and other agencies. We are constantly exchanging information and doing joint work—each within the respective jurisdictions and strictly adhering to sovereignty. This is why we have received recognition from these authorities. This is why we cannot accept these charges against our country, or comparisons of our country with out-of-context situations in other countries."

Major Drug Trafficker Detained; Marijuana Seized

PA1001045190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0435 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Jan (AFP)—Mexican drug police have detained Manuel Bracamontes, regarded as one of the country's biggest drug traffickers, during an investigation in Nuevo Leon, where 1 ton of marijuana was confiscated, the Prosecutor General's Office reported today.

Bracamontes, who was sought by the police long ago, succeeded in bringing "a large quantity of drugs" into the United States over the past 15 years, a communique issued from the Prosecutor General's Office reported.

At the time he was captured, Bracamontes, who was detained with seven of his accomplices, was waiting for a U.S. "contact" to take "a large quantity" of marijuana to the United States, the document added.

The police also seized personal property, seven vehicles, and large-caliber firearms.

El Salvador

Jurist Assures Jesuits' Murderers 'Fair Trial'

PA1101130090 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Those accused of the assassination of six Jesuits will have a "fair trial" and if found guilty, will be punished whether they are civilians, military, or influential people, Supreme Court President Dr Mauricio Gutierrez Castro said.

The technical investigation commission has determined that some military were reportedly involved in the assassination of the six Jesuits and their two maids, which took place at daybreak on 16 November, as reported by President Alfredo Cristiani on 7 January.

"The local and international community can rest assured the Salvadoran Judiciary system will not hesitate to enforce the law upon the authors of this horrible crime," Dr Gutierrez pointed out.

Gutierrez said he does not know how many people are involved or their military ranks, because the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions is still conducting investigations and has not presented its report to the tribunal.

However, General Prosecutor Dr Mauricio Eduardo Colorado maintained that the military suspects "are regrouped and have been put in custody." However, he did not reveal the names or the military ranks of the suspects.

The prosecutor said that the scientific test conducted by the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions and the specialized police working on this case have determined that the crime could have been perpetrated by Armed Forces members.

"The Attorney General Office will proceed according to the law and against whoever turns out to be guilty, because it is the constitutional duty of the Attorney General's Office," Colorado said.

Asked about this issue, Justice Minister Dr Oscar Alfredo Santamaria, president of the Commission to Investigate Criminal Actions said: "We understand that the most recent information on this case was announced by the President of the Republic a few days ago." He refused to make any further statements.

New UCA [Central American University] rector Jesuit Francisco Estrada admitted President Alfredo Cristiani has taken "a step forward" by unmasking the suspects in this crime, "because his ethic principles do not tolerate such atrocities."

Estrada said he understands why Cristiani, during his 7 January speech, did not give any names, "because the investigations are still being conducted." Moreover, there must not only be one suspect, but rather several."

Before meeting with the reporters, the UCA rector met with officials from Scotland Yard. A few days ago, he also met Spanish, Canadian, and U.S. policemen who, at the government's request, are assisting the Salvadoran Commission in charge of clarifying this case.

FMLN on Jesuits' Murder, Proposes New Dialogue

PA1101190690 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1820 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 10 January]

[Text] Regarding the Jesuits' case, the FMLN states that:

1. The FMLN and several sectors, including young Armed Forces officers, were right in pointing to the Army as being responsible for this horrible crime. The responsibility of the armed institution for this case and the cases involving FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation], Monsignor Romero, the nuns, and the U.S. agrarian experts, as well as for the bombings in the cities and massacres in the rural sector, show that we were right when we mentioned in our last peace proposal the need to clean up the Army and reform the judicial system.

2. To advance in the country's democratization, it is not enough to solve this case. The other cases need to be solved and those guilty for them should be punished. The establishment of responsibilities cannot remain at the level of officers and troops who only carried out orders. Most important is to establish responsibility among higher-ranking officers because a decision of this sort could not be beyond the responsibility of the top command.

3. It is also necessary to comply with the Esquipulas II agreements concerning democratization; reforming the judicial system; lifting the state of emergency; reestablishing freedom of expression, mobilization, and organization; releasing the more than 3,000 political prisoners; and stopping the repression against the church and other sectors.

4. The announcement by Cristiani is an effort to resolve complicated discussions on U.S. aid for El Salvador and to continue to benefit from this aid to maintain the war. It would be a mistake to increase aid to the Salvadoran Army because of this announcement or because the case may be resolved. Such aid would leave open the possibility of seeing a case like that of the Jesuit priests happening again. The best way to contribute to a negotiated solution is to cease aid. We appeal to the U.S. Congress to make this decision. If this is done, the FMLN would commit itself to making efforts to reach an immediate ceasefire.

5. Favorable conditions for negotiations depend on justice-making progress. If the Army is thoroughly purged because of this case, peace could be reached earlier.

6. To contribute toward a prompt peace, we will ask the Office of the UN Secretary General to mediate. We urge the government to jointly meet with us and with Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar within the next 30 days to renew the dialogue-negotiation process.

7. The FMLN will be watching how the situation develops. It urges national and international forces to exert pressure so that the investigation process does not end with a declaration of intention or with statements blaming low-ranking soldiers to protect those who are most responsible. This would push away the possibility of a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

[Signed] FMLN General Command: Commanders Salvador Sanchez, Shafick Jorge Handal, Eduardo Sancho, Joaquin Villalobos, and Francisco Jovel.

Government To Reduce Curfew by Two Hours

PA1101195490 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Alfredo Cristiani's government, through the Council of Ministers, decided today to reduce the curfew hours starting tomorrow, 12 January. A meeting was held a few minutes ago at the presidential palace where only television news reporters and reporters from the country's four newspapers were allowed to attend. Information Secretary Mauricio Sandoval reported that the government has decided that the curfew shall start at 0000 and end at 0400, starting tomorrow. Sandoval said that today, the curfew will be as usual—2300 to 0500. According to what was said at the meeting, the government decided that the conditions of violence that forced the government to institute a curfew and a state of emergency have diminished over the past few days.

Armed Forces Report on Guerrilla Attacks

PA1201020390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2150 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jan (AFP)—Official sources have reported that several guerrilla attacks and heavy fighting took place the evening of 9 January and this morning throughout the country, and as a result, three soldiers were killed and three others injured.

Alleged guerrilla urban commandos launched two high-power bombs against a car dealership in downtown San Salvador this morning. A police report said that the attack set the building on fire, but did not result in any casualties although economic losses are heavy.

During the evening of 9 January, guerrilla urban commandos bombed two electricity facilities in different places in San Salvador, which caused power outages in some areas of the capital.

Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported today that three army soldiers were killed recently in clashes against members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in different parts of the central and eastern regions of the country.

The war bulletin by Coprefa stated that the clashes, in which three members of the General Juan Ramon Belloso Battalion were injured, took place in San Jose Guayabal, in the central Cuscatlan Department, and in Santa Elena in the eastern Usulutan Department.

Guatemala

U.S. Citizen Awaiting Trial Killed in Prison

PA1001165290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—Gary Elliot Kent Jr, a U.S. citizen being held in prison while awaiting trial on drug-trafficking charges, has been stabbed to death in the Pavon Prison camp, 18 km southeast of this capital.

Kent Jr, and another person whose name and nationality the police have not revealed, were arrested in July 1989 along the southern coast of Guatemala when the light plane in which the two were traveling had to make an emergency landing.

According to the investigations that followed, the plane was transporting cocaine from Colombia to the United States.

Official sources have reported that Kent Jr was unexpectedly attacked by three other Pavon Prison inmates wielding knives.

Prison guards captured the attackers but did not report their names.

Prison System Director Leonel Franco stated today that the American had not been sentenced and that his case was being processed by a court of justice.

On 28 September, the U.S. Embassy in Guatemala had requested the extradition of Kent Jr for his involvement in drug-trafficking activities and because of his possible links with the Medellin Cartel.

17 Parties To Participate in 1990 Elections

PA1101005290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1322 GMT 10 Jan 90

[By Oscar Rene Oliva]

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Seventeen Guatemalan political parties have been authorized by the Citizens Registry to participate in the electoral campaign that will culminate with general elections in the final months of the year.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) will ask congress to reform the electoral and political party laws so as to move up the date of elections and increase the registration of presidential candidates.

In 1985, elections were held in November, but the TSE will now request that they be held in October, according to TSE President Arturo Herbruger.

Among the parties authorized by the Citizens Registry to carry out campaigns are the ruling Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG) and the Union of the National Center (UCN), the leading opposition party.

The DCG will promote the candidacy of former Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, while the UCN will support businessman and journalist Jorge Carpio Nicolle, owner of the newspaper EL GRAFICO, one of Guatemala's most widely circulated newspapers.

Also participating will be the social-liberal Solidarity Action Movement (MAS), which will support the presidential candidacy of Jorge Serrano Elias, and the moderate left-wing Democratic Socialist Party (PSD), which is supporting Rene De Leon Schlotter.

Schlotter, who founded the DCG but withdrew from the organization because of differences with its leaders, will be supported by the Popular Alliance-5 (AP-5) and the United Revolutionary Front (FUR) of the self-styled "great left-wing front."

The AP-5 was founded by Christian Democratic ideologue Danilo Barrillas, who was murdered on 1 August 1986 by alleged drug traffickers, according to police reports.

The moderate right-wing National Vanguard Party (PAN) will support Alvaro Arzu, current mayor of Guatemala City, while the right-wing National Liberation Movement (MLN) will support Manuel Ayau.

Former Guatemalan UN Ambassador Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran will be the candidate for the moderate right-wing Revolutionary Party and National Renewal Party (PR-PNR).

The other parties that will compete in the elections but have not yet named their candidates are: Nationalist Authentic Central (CAN), National Unity Front (FUN), and Emergent Movement for Harmony (MEC), all of which are right-wing parties, and the center-right Democratic Party of National Cooperation (PDCN), the right-wing National Organized Union (UNO), and the Social Christian-affiliated Democratic Party (PD).

The Citizens Registry has announced that it will soon register the Guatemalan Republican Front (FRG), which will promote the candidacy of General Efrain Rios Montt, a former Guatemalan head of state (1982-1983). Meanwhile, 10 committees may be cancelled for failing to fulfill the 4,000-signature requirement stated in the electoral and political party laws in order to be registered at the Citizens Registry.

Government Minister General Carlos Morales said that his office is preparing a security plan for the political parties because the electoral campaign is "very important."

Nicaragua

Ortega Announces Small Business Fiscal Benefits

PA1201012590 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Today in Masaya, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega announced the implementation of a package of fiscal measures that will benefit the small- and medium-sized Nicaraguan enterprises. The measures include the refinancing of the banking debt [deuda bancaria] and a special 10-billion-cordoba plan to promote the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

After listening for 4 hours to the statements and requests made by Region 4 artisans and manufacturers, President Ortega gave some answers to their needs so that these sectors can start off their development in 1990.

The new measures announced by Ortega include the refinancing of the debts that some cooperatives have with the banks. Ortega also extended the tax exemption law for the payment of net capital gains taxes and [word indistinct] taxes for another year. Cooperatives have been exempted from paying those taxes for the last 2 years. Also, the Banco Popular will promote a special plan that allocates 10 billion cordobas for the development of the Region 4 artisan and industrial sectors. Money will be lent to artisans and manufacturers at a special 11-percent interest rate.

[Begin Ortega recording in progress] ... so that means we would immediately begin investing approximately $500,000 to buy supplies; $500,000 [words indistinct] is approximately 20 billion cordobas [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

President Ortega also announced the pardoning of the debt that resulted from the nonpayment of the general value tax [impuesto general al valor] and the selective excise tax [impuesto selectivo de consumo].

Ortega explained that the government has been taking measures to favor the productive sector. Ortega added that these measures are criticized by UNO [National Opposition Union] because if its leaders were in power they would follow IMF guidelines that would result in hunger and misery for the people.

There are over 12,000 artisans and manufacturers in Region 4. Their production and the income in foreign

exchange that their exportable products generate are therefore important for the country.

These sectors have been much affected by the economic crisis, and for that reason the government has adopted some measures to revitalize them.

This is not the first time the artisans and manufacturers of Region 4 have met with President Ortega. [Words indistinct] the president said he will meet with them again in May 1990 to continue discussing the problems in these sectors.

Electoral Group on Registering Resistance Members

PA1101203890 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1951 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Statement by the Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) in Managua on 9 January]

[Text] The CSE received a letter from Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra dated 19 December 1989 referring to the San Isidro Coronado Declaration in which the Nicaraguan Government reiterated its offer to the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. The offer made in Washington involved promoting the registration of RN members in electoral lists. However, these RN members have to be demobilized prior to 5 February.

Consequently, using its powers, the CSE resolves:

1. The RN members who become demobilized and repatriated, and have returned to society prior to 5 February 1990 in accordance with procedures established for such purposes, will be allowed to register in the electoral lists to vote in the next elections.

2. To this effect, they will have to file a written request at the regional electoral council in the area where they will reside. This request must be accompanied by a document issued by the government certifying their demobilization.

3. In the request, they will specify the region, department, municipality, and address they will have in Nicaragua, as well as the other requirements established by the law for the registration of citizens.

4. The regional electoral council, through an agreement, will order that they be included in the list of voters at the pertinent Vote Counting Board and will issue them their identification cards, registering their signature and taking their fingerprints.

Issued at Section 23 in Managua on 9 January 1990
[Signed] Rosa Marina Zelaya Velasquez, Secretary

Country Plans Suing Media That Back U.S. Plan

PA1101224290 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez has announced that Nicaragua appointed a team of lawyers who will sue the media that support the discrediting campaign against Nicaragua launched by the U.S. Government and its local allies.

Vice President Ramirez made these statements during a meeting with approximately 6,000 residents of neighborhoods bordering on the lake.

The Region 3 Sandinist Front candidates to assembly posts also participated in the meeting with Vice President Ramirez. At the Hilario Sanchez neighborhood, Ramirez delivered 50 land ownership titles to the residents of Las Torres, Riguero Norte, and Benedicto Valverde neighborhoods.

Ramirez said that the slanderous campaign promoted by the Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA and the U.S. Government against the Sandinist Front leader will be counteracted with justice.

[Begin Ramirez recording] Daniel Ortega and myself, as presidential and vice presidential candidates, are truly identified with the people. [end recording]

FRG Embassy Denies Slandering Sandinist Leaders

PA1201034090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] It is absolutely false that the FRG intelligence services provided information to the German newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, which slanderously tried to implicate Nicaraguan leaders in illicit activities.

In a very concise communique, the FRG Embassy in Nicaragua denied any connection to the slanderous information published by the above-mentioned newspaper, whose article was published by the ultrarightist Managua newspaper LA PRENSA with ill intentions.

The FRG Embassy communique states that the reports published by the German newspaper have been heard for some time from U.S. sources. The communique indicates that the article published by the newspaper FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG based its information on those U.S. reports.

The FRG Embassy's press communique confirms statements by some Nicaraguan Government leaders, who have said that those reports are part of a maneuver conducted by the United States. The United States is trying to create doubts about the honesty of the Sandinist leaders to obtain votes for UNO [National Opposition Union].

Panama

Endara on U.S. Presence, Peruvian 'Attacks'

PY1201003890 Lima EXPRESSO in Spanish
11 Jan 90 p 22

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Panamanian President Guillermo Endara by special envoy Aida Meza at Government House; date not given]

[Text] Panama—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara used moderate language to answer the attacks of Peruvian President Alan Garcia and Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox against the legitimacy of his government.

He invited the Peruvian president to visit his country and to talk with Panamanians to realize that the people are not thinking of new elections. As for Larco Cox, who said Endara was the Judas of the Americas, the Panamanian president said Noriega used the same word to attack him during the electoral campaign.

During an exclusive interview with this special envoy, Endara—a tall, active, and robust man—stressed that the U.S. troops will leave as soon as the local public force is able to maintain order.

In his office at Government House, which is located in the La Catedral sector, Endara said that the OAS has made a miserable mistake about his country, and he added that Panama is no longer interested in that international organization. He said he hopes members of the OAS will some day regain control of the organization and that it will fulfill its real objectives.

Endara, who wears glasses for his severe nearsightedness, asked for the Peruvian people's solidarity with the rebuilding of his country, which has been left in ruins by the military dictatorship.

Endara said the Panama Canal Treaty is a commitment between Panama and the United States. "We will comply with the obligations binding Panama, and we will demand compliance with the obligations binding the United States," he stressed.

Regarding the U.S. military occupation, he said the troops will leave "as soon as we are able to maintain public order with our own public force. How long will that take? I do not know."

[Meza] Mr President, Peruvian President Alan Garcia has said you should call for new elections. He has also rejected the so-called invasion of Panama. What is your answer to him?

[Endara] The Peruvian president should be aware—because he has learned about it—that the Panamanian people participated in an election, that we were elected president and vice president in a landslide victory, and that the people also elected congressmen and municipal authorities for a 5-year period.

It is our patriotic, political, and historical duty to respond to those people. The people do not want new elections, because they have already had an election on 7 May. I invite Alan Garcia to come to Panama and to talk with Panamanians. He will then realize the people are thinking of anything but elections. The people have already chosen their representatives.

[Meza] Peruvian Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox has said that you are the Judas of the Americas because, as he put it, you agreed to the invasion of your country by U.S. soldiers... What can you say about that?...

[Endara] I neither asked for the U.S. invasion, nor agreed to it. We met with a de facto situation in which we could have perfectly well said that "we will not assume power under these circumstances," but we did it because we could not turn our back on the people.

As for the remark about Judas, it reminds me of Noriega. He used to call me Judas, and he had his remark painted on the walls. He had it painted everywhere 2 or 3 weeks before the elections. The people know very well who I am, and they voted for me despite the Judas campaign that Noriega unleashed against me 3 or 4 weeks before the elections.

A vast majority voted for me despite this campaign. The Peruvian Foreign Minister has done nothing but repeat the words of Noriega.

[Meza] What does the fact that Noriega turned himself over to the United States mean for your country?

[Endara] It is a great relief for the people. The people see Noriega as a monster who headed a military dictatorship over the past few years. The people are aware that Noriega could not have been imprisoned in any jail in Panama.

The people are aware that our courts did not fulfill their duties. Consequently, we could not do what any other country would have immediately done; that is, bring him first to our courts and then let foreign courts question him. In this regard, Panamanians had to be realistic. We could not keep that monster arrested. Neither could we guarantee him a fair trial, as is the right of any human being no matter how bad a criminal or monster he might be.

We also had a legal problem. As a lawyer, I worried a lot because we have no extradition law. Our Constitution provides no mechanism for handing him over to another country. Yet we could not do anything with him either. But God is almighty, and I imagine that Monsignor Laboa may have exercised some sort of influence on God, because Noriega refused to give himself up to us. I imagine that he thought that I would act with vengeance, and that many Panamanians would feel like lynching him. This idea was obviously totally wrong. He preferred to surrender to the U.S. troops, and this was immensely favorable for us and gave us great relief, as was reflected

by the Panamanian people's absolutely natural reaction of taking to the streets to celebrate as never before.

[Meza] What do you have to say about the two resolutions issued by the OAS?

[Endara] The OAS is a pathetic case. It is a tragedy for Latin America. We Panamanians resorted to the OAS because this is where our Latin American brothers were. We had a terrible problem: a military dictatorship that we could not get rid of without the help of our brothers.

The military dictatorship squashed the peoples' will on 7 May and imposed its own will; the Latin American countries did not know how to handle this situation. They did not attempt to do anything. Some countries are not included in this statement, such as Venezuela, Colombia, and even Peru.

Generally, however, our Latin America failed to help us, the OAS failed to help us. It failed miserably, in a way that is not worthy of Latin American brothers. We no longer care about the OAS. We will continue our membership in the OAS because we hope its members will redeem it some day and put it to the uses for which it was created. Its resolutions are meaningless. The OAS was the least qualified to give its opinion on Panama since it failed to do its job when the Panamanians put their future in its hands.

[Meza] Will the Panamanian Armed Forces be dissolved?

[Endara] We need a police force. A police force could have prevented what happened during the 3 days of anarchy during which, it is true, the so-called "Dignity Battalions" and paramilitary groups were responsible for the looting. The people reacted to the provocation, thus generating 3 days of true anarchy. This was a result of our police forces being dissolved because of the U.S. military intervention. We need a police force. I do not think we will need a police force per se. I think we will need a small corps made up of one, two, or maybe three special units to safeguard public order. Nothing more. We do not need military men nor do we need to militarize the Defense Forces.

The Panamanian people constantly repeat: Never again! We must never again go through this. Nobody wants their children and grandchildren to suffer what the Panamanian people suffered during the 20 years under the military dictatorship.

They will disappear as a military force. As a police force they will remain under a civilian organization, following the orders of a president of the Republic who has been elected by the people within a constitutional and legal framework for the benefit of Panamanian democracy.

[Meza] Has Panama's reconstruction process started?

[Endara] It has decidedly started. We have started to reconstruct the country. We have inherited a country that is in a terrible state.

We could have adopted an attitude that might have been applauded by President Alan Garcia. We could have said that we were not going to take over a country experiencing intervention, that we were not going to take over a country in ruins, that we were not going to take over the government of a country in an anarchic situation. We could have left the occupation forces, the invading forces, to choose the government they thought best.

The Panamanian people did not deserve that. I am sure that a dignified person with democratic convictions who responds to the peoples' demands, who is willing to serve the people, will not turn his back on them. We decided to assume power at that moment because we were elected by the people. The gringos did not place us in power. You are wrong; the people elected us. We took over power and the gringos were decent enough to recognize us. We respond only to the people and nobody else.

[Meza] Do you have anything to say to the Peruvian people, who are currently experiencing an economic crisis and violence?

[Endara] We ask the Peruvian people for their solidarity as we struggle to reconstruct a country that was left in ruins by an evil military dictatorship, that has left us invaded, because neither freedom nor democracy were the reasons for this invasion. Noriega's dictatorship and the drug trafficking dictatorship are responsible for this invasion, because the traditional Latin American dictatorship got together with drug traffickers and created a situation that could no longer be sustained from an international point of view.

We ask the Peruvian people for their solidarity at this difficult moment for the Panamanian people, who have to reconstruct their country under very disadvantageous conditions. But I can assure the Peruvians that the Panamanian people are in very good spirits and that we are going to give our Latin American brothers an example of how to struggle for the well-being of our people.

[Meza] What about the canal treaty?

[Endara] The canal treaty is a commitment between the United States and Panama. We are going to fulfill our part of the treaty and demand that the United States fulfill their part. We will proceed under these guidelines until 31 December 1999, when, according to the treaty, the United States will turn over the canal and all their military bases.

[Meza] When will the military occupation end?

[Endara] President Bush and various U.S. officials who have come to Panama have repeatedly promised us they will withdraw as soon as we are in a position, through our public forces, to preserve public order. We hope and will request that they withdraw their troops as we gradually take control of the situation.

Endara, Arias Visit Former FDP Headquarters

PA1201043590 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] President Guillermo Endara Galimany and First Vice President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon visited the areas surrounding the former Panamanian Defense Forces [FDF] garrison this morning to assess damage in the area so demolition work can be carried out and the Housing Ministry can start building new houses.

[Begin Endara recording] Panamanians deserve decent houses. [end recording]

Endara was welcomed by hundreds of Chorrillo residents and by local and international press reporters who also accompanied the executive branch delegation. President Guillermo Endara and First Vice President Dr Ricardo Arias went up a flight of stairs in the FDP headquarters, where the president took a mallet to help knock down and bury a building that for 21 years represented mourning and suffering for thousands of Panamanian families. Each knock with the mallet was followed by a wave of expressions of joy and brought with it hopes for a rebirth. It seemed impossible, yet only a pile of rocks remains of what used to be the military garrison.

[Begin recording] [Endara] Houses will be built here for the Chorrillo people. The Chorrillo people will have decent housing for decent people. The garrison will be demolished. This building will not exist 40 days from now. Whoever wants to see it better come now because it will not exist 40 days from now. In fact, people can take along with them a little piece of the debris to show it to their grandchildren. People can tell their children: This is part of the ruins of the military dictatorship.

[Reporter] First, has there been any response to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias' letter on the demilitarization of the country?

[Arias] We will not have an army. That is clear. We will not have an air force as before. That is also clear. We will have something new, very Panamanian. We will have a public force which will basically consist of a very modern and technical police force and which will also include some special units—small but well trained—to face any security problems our country may have to face. We are interested in the message sent by President Oscar Arias, as well as in any other successful experience in this regard. We will analyze his note and will have a public force in the Panamanian style.

[Reporter] Could the creation of the security corps become in the future the seeds for a repressive army in the country?

[Arias] Certainly not, because I believe the transformations taking place in the country are deep transformations, not only in buildings and in uniforms but also in the spirit and attitude of people. I believe Public Force members themselves are very interested in serving the country in a new way. I have confidence the renovation we are implementing is going the right way.

[Reporter] Does this mean there is already a change in attitude?

[Arias] I think the country is noticing it. There is nothing left of the repression we had in the past. No one is being tortured, and that whole climate of fear and anguish the regime represented no longer exists. I believe we all feel we are living new times. [end recording]

Laboa on FDP Officer, ETA Members at Nunciature

PA1201024590 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0040 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Apostolic Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa has commented on the situation of Captain Eliecer Gaitan and the ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty] members who sought refuge at the Vatican Embassy in Panama.

[Begin recording] [Laboa] This case is under study, so details must be kept secret, do you not agree?

[Reporter] What about the ETA members who are currently at the Nunciature?

[Laboa] This is not a simple matter since they did not have any documents on them. There was an agreement with the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], and since those forces were destroyed, they were left without any documents. They sought refuge at the Nunciature because, as you know, it was very dangerous to be without any personal documentation under the circumstances. This is a problem for the Spanish Government and the Spanish Embassy, which will determine whether they will be granted a new status here or whether they will be sent to another country. The Spanish and Panamanian Governments must reach an agreement on that.

[Reporter] Panama has already said that it could give residence here to the four ETA members.

[Laboa] I have no knowledge of that.

[Reporter] What do you think of the new government's orientation?

[Laboa] I believe the orientation is very good; however, the orientation is not enough. I believe everybody should cooperate. The government alone can do nothing without the efficient cooperation of the Panamanian people. I believe that the Panamanian people want changes, which is the most important thing, right?

Dignity Battalion Commander Colamarco Surrenders

PA1201022490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0148 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 11 Jan (AFP)—It was learned from reliable sources today that Benjamin Colamarco, chief of the paramilitary Dignity Battalions organized by former

General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has surrendered to U.S. troops occupying Panama.

Colamarco was one of the Noriega loyalists who has been on the U.S. Army's most-wanted list, and many speculations were made about his luck and whereabouts after the 20 December invasion.

The Dignity Battalions, organized precisely to repel a U.S. attack, grouped together approximately 10,000 civilian volunteers. These persons received training on the handling of weapons by former Defense Forces personnel, headed by Noriega.

Benjamin Colamarco was the director of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification.

American soldiers are also looking for Lieutenant Colonel Luis Cordoba, the former traffic police director. He left the Peruvian Embassy after being considered "persona non grata."

Majors Gonzalo Gonzalez, who led the elite Macho de Monte Company, and Heraclides Sucre, former commander of Battalion 2000, who are also wanted by the U.S. Forces, have been given diplomatic asylum by the Peruvian Government.

Editorial on Military Destruction of Country

PA1101181090 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 2-A

[Editorial: "Why Is Panama in Ruins?"]

[Text] The Panamanian people should meditate on this question. Why is Panama in ruins? Why so much weeping, mourning, and grief? Why did so many corrupt civilians lend their services to the criminal, drug trafficking mafia institutionalized by the military caste headed by the tyrant Manuel Antonio Noriega? Why is it beyond doubt that if a worldwide poll were conducted to establish the most perverse and hated man in the world, Manuel Antonio Noriega's name would stand out?

Panama's destruction, both morally and in substance, began on 11 October 1968 when the military toppled Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who had been in office for scarcely 11 days following popular elections that he won by a wide margin of votes. The seed was planted on that date, and the immoral union between the military and civilians thus began. On that date, the armed institution's corruption began, and the well thought out corruption of civilians to conceal the vices of so-called real power also began.

The nation's destruction went through various stages. First, the corruption of the military regime's civilian employees to buy their silence. There were many, many civilians who filled their pockets during the first decade of the dictatorship. They appropriated the property of Editora Panama America, S.A. to control newspapers, which they lacked the imagination to build.

The stage of controlling the private economic sector was fulfilled by making the largest loans in the world with the complicity of civilians who were fully aware of the damage they were doing to the nation. Those loans also served to create a theft fund for the military, as well as civilians; it was used to transfer the excessive number of people eager to hold public office from the private sector to the government sector. Loans were made, portions of these loans were stolen, and other portions were invested in so-called "projects" that did not have even the remotest possibility of yielding profits that would pay off the debt.

The revenue and economic crisis created by the Panamanian military sparked popular protests, and attempts to publish newspapers like LA PRENSA and EXTRA were thwarted by the tyrant, who also exiled those who protested. Under military observation, school children and adults who fell into their hands were raped. They initiated the era of tyranny and terror.

When Noriega was tried by two Florida prosecutors on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering, the United States understood that if Noriega remained in power he would lead the Republic of Panama to an abyss, to its complete and total destruction. Some Panamanians may only have suspected all of this, but the evidence that became so obvious after 20 December fully confirmed it. At that moment, the interests of Panama and the United State were identical—free Panama of the tyrant Noriega.

The U.S. sanctions and military actions were necessary, even essential, as part of the price which, unfortunately, the Panamanian people had to pay to rid themselves of the tyrant Noriega and his military and civilian followers. It is not easy to dethrone a tyrant; quite the contrary, it is very costly both morally and in substance. Whomever does not believe this should recall the tyranny of Mexico's General Porfirio Diaz—one million people were killed. Or that of Somoza in Nicaragua—a 10-year civil war. Or Trujillo's in Dominican Republic—thousands of people killed and the general destruction of a civil war.

Why is Panama in ruins? Because of the irresponsible, anti-patriotic, criminal, and corrupt actions of the military oligarchy and its civilian accomplices. Noriega attempted to bury the country. The U.S. sanctions and military action were necessary to achieve his ultimate dismissal and democracy's victory.

Officials Address Priority Economic Issues

Ford on Loan Request

PA1201033790 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Statement by Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning and economic policy minister, during meeting with Jewish community; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] This is the proposal that we are submitting: After assessing the damage with the help of insurance companies and claims adjusters, we have arrived at a rough figure of losses stemming from the military action, the looting, and the robberies—and I feel ashamed of the Panamanian people for the last two, but I realize that I must understand the anxiety that was prevailing then—and we are requesting $700 million, $350 million in donations and $350 million in a mid-term soft loan.

Given that we have arrived at the figure of $700 million as the probable loss to be compensated, we want to use 50 percent of it to compensate victims of the military action or looting and the remaining 50 percent in the form of mid-term soft loans with the help of insurance companies and private banks.

Banks would be responsible for granting the loans. We would deposit the $700 million—should we obtain the money—in the National Bank of Panama to give 50 percent in the form of subsidy-compensations and the other 50 percent in loans.

We have asked insurance companies to study this proposal and determine how much they can contribute to this common fund, because we are not certain that we will be able to get this amount. However, I guarantee that we will fight very hard to get it.

Ford Outlines Economic Plan

PA1101211490 Panama City Radio America in Spanish 1100 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Ad Hoc Economic Commission, made up of local businessmen and merchants, was installed yesterday. The ceremony was held at the Planning and Economic Policy Ministry in the presence of Guillermo Ford, second vice president and planning minister, and Deputy Planning Minister Jose Galan. This commission will be headed by Guillermo Quijano.

Vice President Ford told the members of this commission that they have a very complex task. He added that 100 percent of the reconstruction programs will be aimed at the private sector to reactivate the country's economy.

Quijano, the president of the commission, stated:

[Begin Quijano recording] We chose women and men who represent our nation. They are representatives of all the races which make up this country. They are honest individuals whose talent and determination are needed to put our economy on the right course. Vice President Ford has entrusted me with presiding over this commission and we will work with him and advise him on the various projects that will be presented here.

As I told many of you over the telephone, this is a commission whose members will receive no salary, and we will work very hard to reset the course of the economy and stabilize the country's economic and social policy. [end recording]

In his speech, Vice President Ford said:

[Begin Ford recording] Today marks the 21st day since we were rescued from a madman. However, that was in the past. I will never talk again about previous regimes because the future is what we are interested in. The past should only serve us as experience.

I am going to begin this speech by commenting—although with some reservation because journalists are not known to keep secrets, but they are my gossiping brothers [laughter]—that I am an advocate of a free press. Therefore, I am going to give you a brief outline of what the president explained to the U.S. President as our reconstruction program.

Fortunately, the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance had an economic plan drafted by Guillermo Chapman, Jose Galan, Marcos Fernandez, and the (?INVESA) [not further identified] team. We had drafted this plan because we had always hoped that democratic transition would take place on 1 September.

Consequently, we are using this program, which we explained to you publicly on several occasions. We have adjusted the plan to the new situation, but it is based on the crisis we were experiencing. Having this plan already drafted has made things less difficult for us. We are not going to make improvisations or ask anyone for alms.

We want to explain and defend our projects; if they are not good, then we should be told why. However, if they are good, then we should be supported. If a financial institution does not have the funds to help us, then we will seek other sources. But the idea is not to go ask for help simply because we have a problem and do not know what to do.

It is a state policy to aim this reconstruction program at the private sector. We are aiming 100 percent, not 99 percent but 100 percent, of this program at the private sector. When I speak of the private sector, I am talking about capital and jobs. The important thing is to rebuild the economy peacefully while also solving the big unemployment problem we have in Panama.

The central government will privatize all enterprises dutifully through public bids in accordance with the law. We do not feel that we should be businessmen. Businessmen must handle the private sector, and the government must promote, support, help, and encourage the private sector. The stage of state paternalism and the times when the government played the role of investor are over. Of course, this is a slow program, and we have big government investments—sugar mills, cement companies, airlines, you name it—which we have to look into. The national government is very clear about this policy. For example, I tell you that the ports will be privatized. An international bid will be announced so that the best and most experienced firms will run them. The firm with the best conditions for the Republic of Panama will win the bid to manage the national ports.

The efficiency needed to run these companies will never be found in a government, and ours is no exception. We are not God's gift to earth.

There are some details about the problems of this crisis. One of them is the reconstruction of Chorrillo, a vital program that involves approximately $40 million. I do not want to go into the mechanics of it, but the cost to rebuild 2,500 housing units for the families affected by the U.S. military action will be approximately $40 million. There are several alternatives, but always working with the private sector. It will not be the government which will build these houses or get into the housing development business. That is not the intention.

The other immediate fund that we need is the one we refer to as the special social fund. It is nothing new. President Roosevelt must be given credit for something similar back in 1929, after the crash. There is a $200 million donation to create 20,000 jobs in the next 24 months. This will not be handled by the government either. This will be handled through the private sector, the institutions in the private sector, the civic clubs, etc. They will present to the government specific programs such as the reconstruction of roads, schools, hospitals, whatever, as long as these funds do not wind up in padded payrolls with 20,000 scoundrels with dollars in their pockets and no work performed. There must be proof for the work done, and we want to give this responsibility to this commission. I take this opportunity to congratulate the commission, because in all this big confusion we did not lose a single grain of rice from all the donations we received. It should be a source of pride for Panamanians that, despite all the confusion, and thanks to the Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis Clubs, the Chamber of Commerce, and all the other groups, we did not lose a single grain of rice. [end recording]

Bank Secrecy Laws To Remain

PA1101142390 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 5-A

[Text] Edgardo Lasso Valdes, president of the National Banking Association [ABP], told this newspaper that the banking secrecy laws will remain in effect in Panama's international banking center.

The spokesperson for the banking organization stated that Second Vice President Guillermo Ford told bankers recently that the "banking secrecy laws will continue in effect in Panama with all of their advantages."

Lasso Valdes explained that the laws, which regulate banking secrecy and time deposits, do not protect the use by criminals of the banking center, because Panamanian laws establish the possibility of investigating accounts that involve criminal charges.

Also, Lasso Valdes said that the ABP adhered recently to the Declaration of Principles of the International Compensation Bank based in Basilea, Switzerland, which prevents the use of banking systems for criminal purposes. He added that in 1984 the ABP issued the Code of Conduct on banking operations and created the Verification Commission of the Code of Conduct, which notes the improper practices to be reported by banking entities.

The ABP president stated that the prevention of the improper use of Panama's banking services for activities related to "laundering drug money" and other illegal practices has been the object of constant attention.

Lasso Valdes concluded that our's is one of the world banking centers that offers the biggest advantages, in addition to having laws that remain unchanged, despite the trying times the country has experienced.

Panamanian President Meets Taiwan's Ambassador

OW1201081990 Taipei CNA in English 0400 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, Jan. 11 (CNA)—Panamanian President Guillermo Endara received Thursday at the presidential office the Republic of China's [ROC] Ambassador Soong Chang-chih, affirming Panama's friendship with the ROC.

President Endara told Ambassador Soong that the ROC and Panama have long maintained cordial relations. He expected that these ties would be further strengthened.

The president thanked the ROC for the rapid recognition of his government. He said his government is prepared to increase cooperation with the ROC for mutual benefits.

Panama is now in a difficult time economically due to the political crisis over the past two years and the recent social chaos following the collapse of the former government controlled by Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega after the military intervention of the United States in Panama, Endara said.

He expressed the hope that friendly nations would extend a hand to Panama for national reconstruction.

In response, Amb Soong said the ROC greatly appreciates the friendship with Panama and is willing to share its successful experiences in economic development with Panama.

Shortly afterwards, Amb Soong visited First Vice President and Minister of Government and Justice Ricardo Arias Calderon, with whom he also had cordial talks.

Socialist Workers Party Demands U.S. Withdrawal

PA1101175290 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p A-3

["Communique to the Country" from the Socialist Workers Party; issued in Panama City on 9 January]

[Text] Communique to the Country:

Today, 9 January, while commemorating the 26th anniversary of a heroic effort to defend our sovereignty, we see that the objectives of our martyrs still exist. We say this because our country was invaded by the world's most powerful army on 20 December 1989, an action that socialists and all the people of the world condemn. We realize that the hatred for the dictatorial regime of Noriega has clouded the nationalist awareness of the Panamanian people at this moment, but absolutely nothing justifies the invasion of one country by another. No argument, regardless how democratic it may appear, justifies this savage violation of our sovereignty. The Panamanian people have always struggled for our right to be sovereign over all our territory.

The U.S. Government has used its mortars, tanks, helicopters, and other war materiel to impose the government of the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance and Guillermo Endara Galimany, who was sworn in on a U.S. military base.

The current government is the product of a criminal invasion that produced more than 2,000 dead and left more than 10,000 homeless and, what is more humiliating to any country, the country is occupied militarily by a foreign army.

The Socialist Workers Party was always opposed to the Noriega regime and we have pointed out its phoney nationalism and its failure to face imperialism. We denounced its administrative corruption and the violation of human rights long before 1987. We opposed the constitutional reforms of 1983, which were supported by most of the "opposition" parties. We have struggled for democratic liberties. With the authority that our participation in these struggles gives us, we repudiate the puppet government that has been imposed by imperialism. Because of this, our position is that to reconstruct the country while defending our sovereignty, it is necessary to convene a free, democratic, and sovereign national constituent assembly that should annul the dictatorship's constitution. Let the Panamanian people, and not Washington, decide what government we have and how to reconstruct the country, who we should bring to trial and who we should not, and so on.

We demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. troops in Panama. The 9 January martyrs have clearly spoken: No bases!

Socialist Workers Party.

Panama, 9 January 1990

Text of 21 Dec Statute on Constitutional Order

PA1101234890 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 2

["Statute for the Immediate Return to Full Constitutional Order" by President Guillermo Endara, First Vice President Ricardo Arias, and Second Vice President Guillermo Ford in Panama City on 21 December]

[Text] We, Guillermo Endara Galimany, Ricardo Arias Calderon, and Guillermo Ford Boyd, president, first vice president, and second vice president, respectively, positions to which we were elected by the Panamanian nation on 7 May 1989, after being installed on 20 December 1989, in keeping with Article 177 of the National Constitution and in the presence of witnesses Osvaldo Velasquez and Jose Manuel Faundes, president and secretary of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee, respectively, and whereas:

That only a few hours after being installed in our positions we learned that a military action by the United States of America in the territory of the Republic of Panama was imminent and inevitable;

That the imminence of said action, a direct consequence of the imprudent and criminal provocations of the military dictatorship of Manuel Antonio Noriega, forced us to adopt the historic and grave decision of assuming the positions that the Panamanians entrusted to us in the aforementioned elections;

That in view of the vacuum of power that was going to be produced by the said military action, our decision solely and exclusively aimed to avoid leaving the people at that crucial time without legitimate representatives to immediately act as their spokesmen and defend their interests with courage and patriotism;

That we must restore popular sovereignty, which was in the said elections, as soon as possible to ensure that the entire nation is represented and defended by its legitimate rulers in all branches, institutions, and public entities at the local and national levels;

That, as a result of that, we must as soon as possible appropriately establish and make fully operational the legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, Public Prosecutor's Office, Comptroller General's Office, Public Force, local governments, and in general, all public autonomous and semi-autonomous entities and state businesses, whose actions would be fully subjected to the Political Constitution of the Republic of Panama.

That, with that purpose in mind, we have agreed to approve and promulgate as soon as is possible and advisable the Statute for the Immediate Return to Full Constitutional Order, based on the following provisions:

Article 1: Beginning on this day, except for the attributions to which the President of the Republic is entitled to on his own, all public power will be exercised by the president, first vice president, and second vice president of the Republic of Panama, who will act unanimously and in keeping with Article 17 of the National Constitution.

Article 2: In possession of powers granted by Subparagraph 1 of Article 178 of the National Constitution, the

president of the republic will appoint all ministers of state, who will immediately exercise the duties inherent to their positions.

Article 3: Once the ministers of state are appointed, the Cabinet Council, besides the duties granted to it by the Constitution and the law, will provisionally exercise all the legislative and administrative duties of the Legislative Branch.

Article 4: The Cabinet Council will exercise legislative duties through the issuance of cabinet decrees that must be unanimously drafted, and administrative duties through cabinet resolutions that must also be unanimously approved.

Article 5: Within the first 15 days of January 1990, the Cabinet Council will appoint the nine magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice and the attorney general of the nation and prosecutor of the administration in keeping with the pertinent provisions of the National Constitution. The officials appointed in this manner will begin to exercise their duties as soon as they are installed.

Article 6: The Cabinet Council will appoint an acting comptroller general of the republic and an acting deputy comptroller general. The said officials will cease exercising their duties on the day when the Legislative Assembly appoints their replacements in keeping with Subparagraph 5 of Article 155 of the National Constitution.

Article 7: As soon as the election of an absolute majority of the members of the Legislative Assembly is proclaimed following a recount of the respective tally sheets, the Assembly will be called to meet by the executive branch, and will do so in a special legislative session for the period of time determined by the executive branch, in order to:

1. Approve or reject the appointment of all officials appointed by the Cabinet Council in keeping with the aforementioned articles and other appointments made by the executive branch that require the ratification of the Legislative Assembly by mandate of the Constitution or the law;

2. Appoint the comptroller general of the republic and deputy comptroller general of the republic;

3. Legislate over matters pertaining to the cabinet decrees issued by the Cabinet Council;

4. Participate in the approval of the state budget as mandated by Title IX of the National Constitution;

5. Grant, upon its request, specific special powers to the executive branch that it would exercise through decree-laws during Legislative Assembly recesses;

6. Modify, as the case may be, the charter of its internal regime and adopt the measures to organize it;

7. Attend to any other matters that the executive branch might bring up for its consideration at the said meeting.

Article 8: Municipal councils will begin to operate in their respective districts as soon as the election of an absolute majority of its members is proclaimed following a recount of the respective tally sheets.

Article 9: Once the legislative branch, executive branch, and the Supreme Court of Justice have been duly installed, they will proceed, in keeping with their constitutional duties, to appoint the three magistrates of the Electoral Tribunal.

Article 10: Should the proclamation of an elected candidate or candidates for any given position be prevented by a lack of tally sheets, new elections, which would be called by the Electoral Tribunal, will be held.

Article 11: The tenure of all popularly elected officials mentioned in the previous articles will expire on 31 August 1994.

This statute will be in force upon its approval.
Issued in Panama City, Republic of Panama, at 1200 on 21 December 1989.
Guillermo Endara G., president
Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president
Guillermo Ford, second vice president

Panama City Mayor Appoints District Magistrates

PA1201035190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p B-2

[Text of Decree No 3 issued by the Panama City Municipality on 8 January]

[Text] Panama City Municipality, Republic of Panama, Decree No 3 (8 January 1990), whereby district magistrates are appointed.

Whereas:

District magistrates constitute the citizens' first appeal for justice, and:

The social and political situation the Republic is experiencing requires that the Panamanian people be guaranteed the normal functioning of all legal offices and procedures to effectively make use of their rights in peace and security.

The capital district mayor decrees:

Article 1. To appoint the following citizens to the post of district magistrates:

Jose Guillermo Garcia Valdez, i.d. No 8-229-2587, in the San Francisco Corregimiento.
Abdiel Omar Armengol Tullosh, i.d. No 1-16-444, in the Parque Levefre Corregimiento.
Abdiel Emigdio Sagel Garcia, i.d. No 8-391-820, in the Juan Diaz Corregimiento.

Aquilino Sanchez Sanjur, i.d. No 4-138-2673, in the Rio Abajo Corregimiento.

Myrta Varela de Duran, i.d. No 6-53-812, in the Betania Corregimiento.

Eustace Beresford Ward, i.d. No 8-153-1896, in the Tocumen Corregimiento.

Roberto Landero Clare, i.d. No 4-8-425, in the Pueblo Nuevo Corregimiento.

Robinson Bernal Peralta, i.d. No 7-94-1408, in the Curundu Corregimiento.

Federico Vega Dominguez, i.d. No 7-72-280, in the San Martin Corregimiento.

Raul Ernesto Escala, i.d. No 8-208-1496, in the Chilibre Corregimiento.

Luis Alberto Villanueva, i.d. No 8-385-361, in the Pacora Corregimiento.

Lenin Carrillo, i.d. No 8-340-497, in El Chorrillo Corregimiento.

Article 2. This decree will enter into force starting today.

Legal basis for the decree: Article 45 of Law No 106 of 8 October 1973, amended by Law No 52 of 12 December 1984.

Issued in Panama City, on 8 January 1990.

Be it promulgated and executed.

Acting Capital District Mayor Guillermo Cochez.

Secretary Julio Ramirez

Argentina

Exercises To Be Held in Buenos Aires, Santa Fe

PY1101165690 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Army General Staff has announced that some of its units will carry out combat exercises in the Buenos Aires provincial town of (Citibel) tomorrow. Army troops will move along public roads in the area. The General Staff released a communique saying that during the exercise Army units will simulate the recovery of military facilities.

On another front, the Army Garrison Command in Santa Fe has reported that units of that garrison will begin military maneuvers as of today. The maneuvers are part of this year's Army training. Troops and armored vehicles will move through populated areas in Santa Fe. The exercise will last until 13 January.

Official Reports on AIDS Cases in Mar del Plata

PY1101233090 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1451 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Summary] Mar del Plata, 11 Jan (TELAM)—Juan Franproyen, chief of the Department of Sexually Transmitted Illnesses and AIDS of the Mar del Plata National Epidemiology Institute, has reported that 60 new AIDS cases were registered in the district in 1989, and that most of the patients were young people involved with drugs.

He added that, compared to 1987 and 1988, "the number of cases has stabilized because people have realized the seriousness of transmissible illnesses."

Bolivia

Zarate Willka Group Claims Two Bomb Attacks

PY1201111290 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0811 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Excerpt] La Paz, 12 Jan (EFE)—Two bomb attacks were carried out in La Paz last night, one in front of Government House following the message to the nation over a radio and television network by President Jaime Paz Zamora.

The explosions did not cause any serious damage but the police were mobilized, fearing a wave of attacks.

The self-styled "Zarate Willka Liberation Armed Forces" sent simultaneous written messages to the media, calling on the people to oppose the government, which it says is "at the service of the wealthy and the exploiters." It also calls for free education, the establishment of permanent jobs, the defense of coca-leaf farming, and the defense against U.S. intervention and big land owners.

The first bomb attack occurred at 0230 GMT in front of the Planning and Economic Coordination Ministry, just before President Paz Zamora concluded his message to the nation in which he explained the guidelines of the (?general) economic program that the government will implement between 1990 and 1993.

Roberto Barbery, Interior Ministry Intelligence Department director, has reported that dynamite sticks were hurled from a car.

The second attack occurred at 0335 GMT, just after the cabinet members had left Government House where they had listened to the presidential message.

A bomb was placed outside Government House in the parking lot that is used by cabinet ministers. The police placed the bomb in a nearby flower bed, where it went off. The shock wave shattered some windows in Government House and street lamps in the Plaza Murillo.

As of 0500 GMT today, the police had received reports of two other explosions in two La Paz neighborhoods, but these have not yet been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Minister Says Radar Needed in Antidrug Fight

PY1101105890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] This afternoon, Defense Minister Hector Ormachea said at the Government Palace that the U.S. proposal to install radar units in Bolivia to detect drug-trafficking planes is being analyzed by the national government.

Ormachea said the U.S. plan should not be analyzed as an isolated fact but within the framework of the fight against drug trafficking. Ormachea pointed out that the U.S. Government (?will discuss) with the governments of the Latin American countries involved in coca and cocaine production any proposal to be implemented in their territories.

Minister Ormachea said that a decision on the radar installation issue and on other measures aimed at intensifying the fight against drug production and trafficking will be made at the summit to be held by the Peruvian, Colombian, Bolivian, and U.S. presidents in February.

The defense minister said he discussed the U.S. plan to install radar in the country with the military high commands, and added that it is not possible to make any official announcement without having more information on the matter.

[Begin Ormachea recording] Among many other things, I have discussed many aspects of [words indistinct] including, of course, helicopters, planes, and radar. I assure you, therefore, that I have discussed all these issues, but only as a preliminary exchange of ideas. [end recording]

Senate Welcomes Aylwin's Election in Chile

PY1101130890 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Bolivian Senate has approved a resolution welcoming the victory of President Patricio Aylwin and expressing support for the democratic system in Chile. According to the resolution, Aylwin's victory will help consolidate democracy in Latin America.

Brazil

Economic Reform Measures, Growth Reported

Bank Delays Profit Repatriation

PY1101134490 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Netowork in Portuguese

[Text] The Central Bank has adopted an important measure to protect Brazilian foreign currency reserves [reservas cambiais]. The period for the remittance of profits and dividends of multinational companies to their offices abroad has been delayed for 2 months.

Thus, the money deposited by those companies in the Central Bank, which in the past was remitted in 60 days, will now take 120 days to be liberated.

According to Central Bank Foreign Department Director (Arni Lory), the objective is to protect Brazilian foreign currency reserves. This measure will prevent multinational companies, which feel insecure over the political transition, from exaggerating their remittance of profits, thus provoking a drop in the foreign currency reserves.

Last year these remittances reached more than $3 billion, or almost half of the current reserves which the government is trying to maintain.

(Arni Lory) has explained that this is only a precautionary measure. According to him, there is no sign of a possible exacerbation of remittances, especially because these companies are still working on their year-end balances.

World Bank, IDB Grant Credit

PY1201012690 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Iris Rezende has signed contracts with the World Bank and the IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] in Washington. Credits for $102.6 million will be earmarked for research in the agricultural field and irrigation projects in northern and northeastern Brazil.

November Growth 3-Year High

PY1101144090 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has revealed that the Brazilian economy increased 11 percent in November, which is the best in the past 3 years. The best results came from the metallurgy and chemistry sectors, with 16.5 and 16.8 percent, respectively.

According to the IBGE, the main reason for this growth is that these two sectors had been seriously damaged by strikes in November 1988. The pharmaceutical sector has also made good performance with a growth of 25.3 percent [as heard]. The transport material registered negative growth of minus 3 percent.

The IBGE has noted, however, that the industrial sector has demonstrated a continuous decline over the past few months of 1989, and that during the October-November period, it dropped 1.3 percent. Nevertheless, the results up to November, as compared to the previous years, show that in 1989 the industrial sector has achieved its best performance since 1986.

Chile

Aylwin To Keep Foreign Investment Law

PY1201000090 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Excerpt] After a meeting with President-elect Patricio Aylwin, Juan Hamilton, the future mining minister, declared that the law on foreign investments will not be modified.

[Begin Hamilton recording] Now that the country will enjoy a greater political and democratic stability, we hope foreign investment will grow; we will support and encourage it. [end recording]

Regarding a possible modification to the law, Hamilton said:

[Begin Hamilton recording] There are no plans in this regard. There is always a possibility of improvements, but for the time being there are no plans in this regard. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Junta Approves Armed Forces Charter, Other Laws

PY1201013790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The Government Junta has approved the Armed Forces Charter. This information was released by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino following a legislative session of the Government Junta. Merino said that the charter was approved after a disagreement between him and President Pinochet on Article 71 was worked out. [recorded passage indistinct]

The Government Junta also approved the law dissolving the National Intelligence Center. The Carabineros charter, which regulates the professional careers of the Carabineros and establishes conditions for admission, appointment, promotion, and retirement, was also approved. The legislative branch also approved the education law.

Asked about President-elect Patricio Aylwin's new cabinet, Merino said he hoped for the country's success and well-being.

Diplomatic Relations With Hungary Restored

PY1201105490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz this afternoon stated that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Hungary is a very important Chilean foreign policy step that has been favored by the changes that have occurred in East Europe.

He said that former Consul Ricardo Concha has been appointed Chilean charge d'affaires in Hungary and that the Chilean ambassador to that country will be appointed by Patricio Aylwin's administration.

Errazuriz announced that the Czechoslovakian and GDR consuls will arrive at their respective posts this weekend. He added that there is a commitment to reestablish diplomatic relations with Poland.

Concerning Chilean citizen (Manuel Galaz), who was arrested in Romania, Errazuriz said he was released under the amnesty law promulgated on 5 January.

Errazuriz made these announcements shortly before attending a meeting between the government and President-elect Aylwin's cabinet at La Moneda Palace.

Interior Minister Carlos Caceres, Minister Secretary General of the Presidency Jorge Ballerino, Foreign Minister Errazuriz, and newly delegated Ministers Enrique Silva Cimma, Enrique Correa, and Enrique Krauss attended that meeting.

Errazuriz said the presidential inauguration and the appointment of new ambassadors will be analyzed during the meeting. He added that, in his opinion, career ambassadors and politicians are not at the same levels. He said the current administration wants Chile to have permanent career diplomats.

Cessna Plane With 2 U.S. Citizens Lost

PY1101111690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Oscar Benito Rebolledo]

[Text] The main event of the night was the loss of a Carabineros Cessna plane. Some helicopters and airplanes took off a few minutes ago to look for this Cessna plane, which is lost between Copiapo and Santiago. The aircraft took off from the Copiapo airport at 1700 yesterday and should have arrived in Tobalaba airfield at 2100.

The Carabineros aircraft was carrying U.S. citizens, members of the sanitary control department, who were visiting Chile to verify that Chilean fruit exports to the United States comply with international standards.

The people on board the plane are: Carabineros Pilot Lieutenant German Fuentes Meza; Sergio Lascano Arroyo, an exporter; and Oscar Bonilla Saenz, a member of the agriculture and livestock service.

The two Americans are: John F. Harty and Patrick G. Poulsard.

No other information is yet available. An intense search for the aircraft has begun. We expect a Carabineros communique later in the day.

Colombia

Call From Bush to Barco Ends Controversy

PA1101200890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Carlos Tovar]

[Text] The presidents of Colombia and the United States last night ended the international controversy over the sending of U.S. warships to our coasts. A telephone call from Bush to Barco that was followed by a White House communique erased the guilt that the White House could have had in this incident and put the blame for the diplomatic mess on the media from the two countries.

Some observers believe, however, that leaks to the media stopped U.S. Government plans that had not been coordinated with Colombia.

The fact that the White House used its red telephone to call the Narino Palace to end a week loaded with political and diplomatic reactions against an alleged U.S. air and naval blockade against Colombia in the Caribbean is something that could set a positive precedent for Virgilio Barco.

Without putting in doubt the close relations that Barco has with his U.S. counterpart, George Bush, many believe the Colombian chief of state wanted Bush to end the fears and doubts that arose because of what was viewed as an imminent show of force by the Washington government.

The unexpected reading last night of a White House communique denying plans to carry out military actions in the Caribbean indicate this. The communique affirms, of course, that the two presidents agreed that unfortunate, inexact, and confusing reports on U.S. attempts to cooperate with the Colombian Government created a wrong impression.

According to that communique, the United States will adopt no action without complete approval and cooperation from the Colombian Government. The communique notes that a blockade had never been envisaged and that President Bush had not authorized naval maneuvers, as it had been mistakenly reported by the media.

This is what the White House communique states, but for over a week the U.S. media had been reporting on statements by U.S. State and Defense Department officials who had different versions.

Despite the White House clarification, the issue continues to evoke reactions. This was the reaction of Conservative Party leader Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who returned to the country last night:

[Begin Gomez Hurtado recording] Apparently this was an idea of the U.S. Pentagon. There was a leak and it was published that the Colombian waters were going to be blockaded. I asked questions while in the United States and learned that the president [not further identified] knew nothing about it.

Later I noticed that the term blockade was being used. The Americans replaced it with the term cooperation, and the ships, which had been on the move, suspended the operation. [end recording]

FARC Renews Fight, Sends Barco Peace Proposal

PA1201023490 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] According to the military intelligence services, the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] launched a new offensive to recover the region of Middle Magdalena that was lost to Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha and his men 5 years ago. This is the reason for fierce fighting there between the Army and several FARC fronts during the first few days of this year. Heavily armed and strengthened, these fronts are trying to militarily take over areas that Rodriguez Gacha's deputies have been vacating because of the crisis created in their organization by the death of El Mejicano [Gonzalo Rodriguez' alias].

The authorities believe that the return to the strategy of using kidnappings as a means to finance itself is also part of this new offensive that seems to be enjoying the support of other guerrilla groups such as the EPL [Popular Liberation Army].

Meanwhile, in La Uribe the FARC General Secretariat has submitted another peace proposal to President Barco. The guerrilla group states that it is willing to establish a new political party called Bolivarian Reunion of the People [Reunion Bolivariana del Pueblo] if the government calls a plesbicite to establish a national constituent assembly.

The proposal was received on 9 January directly from the hands of FARC leaders by members of the Presidential Advisory Board for Peace Issues.

[Begin recording of Rafael Pardo, presidential advisor for peace and rehabilitation] The government must assess the proposal it has received, as well as FARC's subversive activities, to determine whether it should resume talks with this organization. [end recording]

For the time being, members of the advisory board will travel to Santo Domingo this weekend to continue studying with the M-19 [19 April Movement] the possibilities of incorporating it into political life following the collapse of the special peace district issue in Congress.

Authorities Report Bogota Drug Cartel Dismantled

PA1201023290 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The Directorate of Judicial Police and Investigations [DIJIN] has dismantled the Bogota Cartel following an operation in which 20 luxury homes were raided in different areas of the city. According to a DIJIN report, the police infiltrated the inner structure of the Camilo Zapata Vasquez family. The Noticiero de las Siete newscast managed to shoot video footage of the raid on the La Maria Farm on the outskirts of Bogota. Here is exclusive footage and a report by William Calderon:

[Begin Calderon recording] Anonymous callers informed the authorities about La Maria Farm, a luxurious ranch located near Asuba, a few kilometers from Bogota. At 1900, a GOES [Special Operations Group] team surrounded the ranch. An agent makes sure the main gate is not electrically wired, and the decision to forcibly enter the house is made. They all cover one another as they take their positions. These men are perfectly trained for this sort of work. There is a light inside the ranch house, so they assume someone is inside. Tension rises in view of the possibility of an armed confrontation. As he approaches the ranch, the commander decides to storm it. Moments later, several men open the door without offering resistance and surrender to the authorities.

A patrol enters quickly and controls every corner of the ranch. Other uniformed men support the operation from outside. They unsuccessfully look for caches [caletas]. These three workers who were doing repairs at the ranch were detained as a precaution in the main hall. Meanwhile, the search continues in other areas of the house. Three safes were hidden in different rooms of the ranch house. One of the safes was built into one of the eight marble-tiled bathrooms. The huge kitchen was temporarily at the workers' disposal. Near the master bedroom was a large swimming pool with a ground-level window from the sauna and jacuzzi area. There were several game rooms and tennis and squash courts in the house.

The authorities now have documents and photographs, although the residents of this luxury ranch had left before

the raid. Nineteen other operations were simultaneoulsy conducted in Bogota. The authorities said afterward that they felt they had dismantled the Bogota cartel.

The DIJIN released the following report: 10 persons arrested, including Jesus Evelio Zapata Lopez, the alleged head of this drug trafficking band that had international connections.

The following was seized: 3 certificates of deposit worth almost 250 million pesos; 1 1977 Porsche similar to the one seized from Jorge Luis Ochoa in 1988; 3 Toyotas, one of which was sold 4 months ago by an Ecuadoran Embassy official in Bogota; 3 revolvers; 3 pistols; 1 carbine; ammunition; radio communications equipment; 2 false diplomatic license plates; and cash. [end recording]

Paraguay

Commentator on Panama's Right To Try Noriega

PY1001011090 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
7 Jan 90 p 14

[Article by Francisco Perez-Maricevich: "And the people of Panama?"]

[Text] General Manuel Antonio Noriega is the subject of this article.

This is not a new, and much less an attractive, subject thinking that our protagonist can be fascinating. Everything about him, or everything that is known of him, is suffused with an air of trickery and vilification which are not easily tolerable by anyone. But even though he may be as repudiated as possible, there is no reason to justify treating him like ruffian as was the case when he was arrested.

The fact that a superpower such as the United States wanted to capture Noriega to take him to court and charge him with drug trafficking is neither good nor bad, and any U.S. citizen has and has had the right to demand justice.

But the legitimacy of this demand can never be an excuse for the brutal way in which it was satisfied. At this time and for very well known reasons, it is unnecessary to argue that the U.S. action is unacceptable and that the motives for that action should be included in the category of international state terrorism.

My subject now is not this, but a different aspect that includes the lawless general. I think he represents the nucleus of whole story and the drug issue is only an episode in that story. This drug issue could be the central factor for the United States, but surely not for Panama.

Panama has more severe and more serious charges against him than the United States, charges with more relevance and authority. The general deserves an exemplary trial not because of his involvement with drugs but because of his more serious crimes which had more devastating effects on his own people. And the people cannot give up the primordial right to bring him to court to answer the charges that have to do with the proper functioning of the Panamanian state, its sovereignty, and the very existence of the nation and its institutions.

These are the truely important charges against Noriega, and the dignity of the Panamanian people demands (or must demand) that these charges be either refuted or answered. And only when the confirmed crimes against society and the state he had usurped are punished by Panamanian justice should more charges be brought against him. Only then should he be submitted to the jurisdiction of other courts that do not have power over him in the current circumstances.

It cannot be denied that the U.S. people have the right to demand justice regarding Noriega. As a result of the enormous power the United States has to ensure the fulfillment of its goals, Noriega is now in jail. This fact, however, deprives the Panamanian people of their supreme right to demand that Noriega pay for his crimes against the country. It is true that the emotional atmosphere in which the Panamanian people are living makes them feel grateful to the U.S. soldiers who freed them from Gen Noriega. As soon as the Panamanians become sober again, they will surely see things from a different point of view. It is not hard to imagine that the Panamanians will then want Noriega returned to Panama to be tried there. The Panamanians will also ask for more than U.S. economic help because, no matter how much the U.S. Government gives Panama, it will never be enough to compensate for the moral humiliation the U.S. invasion caused the Panamanian national conscience.

If the Panamanians so request, will the United States agree to return the arrogant general, who is now crestfallen, to the Panamanians to be tried according to Panamanian law? We must not prejudge. Let us wait. It would be nice to find out whether U.S. justice is really more powerful than the U.S. Government as a superpower, as it has been said in a solemn occasion.

All we can do now is wait and see. Meanwhile, we will listen to the murmurs of history through the blind labyrinths of the future, trying to recognize the voices and their secret meaning. This may help us construct a new language that will enable us to understand each other without cheating or distortions.

PLRA Leader Laino Meets With Aylwin

PY0901134890 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
7 Jan 90 p 7

[Excerpt] During their meeting yesterday, Authentic Radical Liberal Party Chairman Doming Laino and Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin discussed Latin American integration, the new concept of democratic security, and fundamentally, national security.

The meeting was held at Aylwin's office in Santiago. It started at 1630 and lasted about 1 hour. After the meeting, we contacted Laino by phone. He reported: "We held an agreeable and cordial meeting, and discussed topics that are of common interest to the two countries (Chile and Paraguay)."

Laino said that they discussed in detail the Latin American integration topic and "our individual concepts of democratic security and national security. Aylwin showed great interest in the rapprochement of our two nations, and fundamentally, in the integration of all Latin American countries. This is our greatest challenge."

Laino went to Chile at the invitation of the South American Peace Committee, the headquarters of which are in Santiago, to attend an international congress in Vina del Mar, and to make contact with Chilean congressmen, politicians, and the Chilean president-elect. [passage omitted]

Argana Discusses, Tackles International Issues

Reviews 1990 Plans

PY1001211390 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 13

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana and President Andres Rodriguez met for several minutes yesterday at Government House. Foreign Minister Argana said after the meeting that they had reviewed plans on international affairs activities for 1990 and the signing of agreements with countries in the Americas, Asia, Oceania, and Australia.

Asked whether Paraguayan-USSR relations are included in these plans, Argana said that there were discussions on Paraguayan trade relations with East bloc countries but not with the USSR.

Argana said: "In principle, the policy is quite clear: There is no prohibition on trading with East bloc countries. But the Constitution prohibits the activities of political parties that uphold communist ideology. Paraguay is allowed to maintain trade relations with East bloc countries and it has always traded with these countries."

Argana made reference to the Jawa engines and guns that were imported some time ago from Czechoslovakia and some other products imported from Poland, saying: "Things will continue as before. We believe that it is still not the right time to discuss opening diplomatic or consular relations. However, it might be interesting to avoid intermediaries."

Foreign Minister Argana reasserted that Paraguay, along with Chile and Bolivia, will join the Group of Eight.

He said: "The Group of Eight will not be expanded with the inclusion of only one country. The current plan is to allow those countries that have restored a democratic order to join the Group of Eight, which is now made up of seven countries. This idea has already been discussed with foreign ministers from the Group of Eight member countries. With these new additions, including Chile, Paraguay, and other countries, we will establish the Group of 11."

Argana explained that with the addition of these new countries, the organization will no longer be known as the Group of Eight. He said that the organization would be known as the Group of 11 and that it would include Brazil [as published], Chile, and other countries.

Foreign Minister Argana also said President Rodriguez will deliver a message on Paraguayan foreign policy to the Uruguayan Congress during an official visit to that country on 24 January. [passage omitted]

Signs Agreements With FRG

PY1001212690 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 14

[Summary] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana and FRG Ambassador Heinz Schneppen signed two agreements yesterday in a ceremony at the Foreign Ministry attended by the agriculture minister and other goverment officials. One agreement arranges for the FRG to continue its assistance to an Agricultural Ministry ecology and reforestation program. The other agreement provides for cooperation in promoting small- and medium-sized industries.

OAS Plans General Assembly in Asuncion

PY1001022490 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Jan 90 p 19

[Excerpt] High-ranking officials of the OAS, which is headquartered in Washington, will arrive in Asuncion to coordinate the final details for the General Assembly to be held in Asuncion this year. The Assembly will be presided over by Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana. The Foreign Ministry has created a special committee to coordinate the work with the OAS officials. The committee will be headed by State Deputy Secretary Hugo Saguier Caballero.

The General Assembly will be held in June 1990. [passage omitted]

Commerce Minister on Foreign Debt Renegotiation

PY1101145090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 10

[Excerpt] Industry and Commerce Minister Antonio Zuccolillo said last night: We have renegotiated and updated $1.2 billion of our foreign debt with specific maturity dates. We do not have any pending problems or commitments. He was asked about the possible adoption of an IMF "recipe."

When asked why some countries did not obtain positive results from IMF policies, the minister said,"They simply did not honor their commitments with the IMF.

That is not our case. We will first thoroughly study and discuss the proposal and then we will reach a decision."

"We are talking with the IMF and studying its proposals. We propose a long term negotiation, and if this is possible, we will have solved the problem. The IMF demands some conditions which have already been fulfilled by Paraguay without the need to sign any contract, such as a free foreign currency exchange policy, a free market policy, normal import-export tariffs, and a balanced budget. All these are basic issues are part of our economic system. Therefore it will be simple," the minister added.

"The countries that have contracted very large debts with the IMF, or that are very far behind in their payments to the IMF must make great internal sacrifices. This is not our case at all," Minister Zucolillo stated. [passage omitted]

CUT Criticizes Government Policy

PY1101111590 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 27 Dec 89 p 24

[Text] In its year-end message, the United Labor Federation (CUT) harshly criticizes the government because the workers' demands have not been met. The message states: Although we consider this stage of political freedom an important step, it should be understood that it is not enough and that there can be no full democracy if the social sectors continue to be ignored.

Evaluating the achievements in the union sector during 1989, the CUT states that "the fact that 1,000 people were discharged because of trade-union problems reflects the difficulties under which the Paraguayan union movement works."

The CUT criticizes the police and military intervention in the workers-employers conflicts. "The situation of unions becomes more difficult whenever sectors which have nothing to do with conflicts between workers and employers resolutely side with employers and landowners. We refer to the participation of the police and the Army in the conflict at the Itaipu dam site, the result of which two people died and several were wounded," the message points out.

The CUT says that congressional action has been deficient because "it engaged in political domestic affairs and paid little interest to the protection of trade union activities. Proof of this is the draft bill that was submitted by the CUT which was not debated for 6 months and which was approved by only one of the chambers.

According to the CUT no progress has been made in the socio- economic sector since the 2-3 February coup. The labor organization believes that no socio-economic progress will be made unless decisive actions are taken to recover what was stolen during the dictatorship, unless those responsible for those robberies are punished, unless those ill-gotten lands are confiscated, unless unproductive latifundia is returned to the government, unless foreign debt payments are postponed, and unless the International Monetary Fund proposals are ignored."

Criticizing the economic policy implemented by the government, the CUT states that "if this political system continues, the gap between the poor and the rich will deepen and the living standards of the poorest sector will worsen."

Proof of this, the CUT adds, "is the arbitrary, illegal, and unjustified postponement of the salary readjustment."

In view of this situation, the CUT states that the change of these government policies is the main challenge of the Paraguayan union movement. "The role of the unions should not be restricted to merely negotiating salaries with the employers. We must not be restricted to just negotiate in collective bargainings," the CUT says.

The CUT also urges the country's workers to struggle for a more democratic and fair society. "The employer and the state have a system that they want to implement. This system is not always the most appropriate for the workers sector. We must struggle for a system of society which we wish to implement with democracy and social justice.

River Plate Basin Ministers To Meet in May

PY0901201290 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 8 Jun 90 p 19

[Excerpt] The River Plate Basin foreign ministers will meet in Paraguay in May. This meeting will undoubtedly have a continental transcendency.

The foreign ministers meeting, which is the supreme organization of the River Plate Basin Treaty (composed of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Paraguay), is held every year to draw up the basic guidelines for a common policy aimed at ensuring the fulfillment of the goals established in the River Plate Basin Treaty. This treaty expresses the legal intention of the governments of the five countries to promote regional development and integration. [passage omitted]

Peru

Vice President on Panama, IMF Talks

PY1201023890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] First Vice President Luis Alberto Sanchez has said the presence of an IMF mission in Lima and the receptiveness the mission has found in Peru indicate that both sides have modified their positions. He added that negotiations with the IMF will not result in immediate credits but in medium-term accords.

Sanchez also referred to the Peruvian Foreign Ministry's position on the Panamanian crisis:

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What is your opinion of Peru's position on the Panamanian case?

[Sanchez] I believe the reaction was at first a bit hasty. But it was fair because no country is allowed to undertake an armed intervention at its own will. Haya de la Torre has said since 1963—and I recall this from (?D'Ornellas) in connection with the defense of the continent—that all Latin American countries may jointly intervene should there be a breakdown of a democratic government, but this intervention should never come from a single country by its own decision. Therefore, this has been an invasion (?and we cannot agree with that). But neither was it possible to continue with Noriega. These two situations should be rejected. A third topic is the fate of the Endara administration. I believe that a plebiscite, a referendum to ask the Panamanian people whether they agree with the situation, is necessary. Endara was elected, but he was improperly installed, right? The election was free, but he was installed by U.S. forces. This matter is therefore pending.

[Reporter] Regarding the Peruvian position toward the international economic situation and the fact that an IMF mission is in Peru, do you think this visit will have a positive effect on the Peruvian economy?

[Sanchez] I think it will, but in the medium- or long-term, not immediately. There is no chance of that whatsoever. Money will not come immediately; it will not.

[Reporter] Would you say this attitude reflects a change in the Peruvian Government's position?

[Sanchez] It is a change of position for both sides. The IMF has admitted that social conditions in Peru should be taken into account along with the influence of terrorism and drug trafficking. The IMF had never considered these factors before. [end recording]

Uruguay

President-Elect Resigns From Party Posts

PY1001023090 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle has resigned from the presidency of the national executive committee of the Herrera Movement after a special meeting held a few minutes ago in the Parque Hotel.

Lacalle also resigned from his position as director of the National Party Executive Board. Lacalle said that his resignation will be studied by the Herrera Movement National Council on 16 January.

[Begin recording] [Lacalle] Today I submitted my resignation from the national executive committee of the Herrera Movement, which I have headed since its inception on 22 July 1987. I am resigning because of the tasks involving the presidential inauguration [words indistinct]. The party leadership decided that my resignation will be studied on 16 January during a solemn session in the Herrera Movement headquarters. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Venezuela

Government Says Military Told of U.S. Maneuvers

PA1001023190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0015 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 9 Jan (AFP)—The Venezuelan Armed Forces were informed on 3 January "as a manner of courtesy" of the U.S. Navy maneuvers off the Colombian coast, Venezuelan Defense Minister Division General Filmo Lopez Ucategui declared here today.

Lopez told reporters that the the Armed Forces were informed by the U.S. State Department and officials of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, and that they were invited to participate in these exercises.

"Of course, we answered that we were not interested in participating in that type of mission," the minister added.

He said that, in essence, the Venezuelan Armed Forces were informed of the instructions by President George Bush to increase this "task force and to place it off the Colombian coasts with the idea of controlling air and sea movements to capture ocean vessels and neutralize aircraft used by drug traffickers."

Lopez said the number of vessels that compose the "U.S. cordon" can be increased from 5 or 6 to 15, including an aircraft carrier.

He said that any country can stage manuevers in international waters. "It does not represent any threat to Venezuela, but we do not think such force should be maintained permanently off the coast of any country," he added.

The Venezuelan minister denied a Caracas press report that U.S. aircraft had overflown the Venezuelan archipelago of Los Monjes near the theater of operations of the "task force."

[Passage indistinct] his office or President Carlos Andres Perez were advised by Washington about these operations.

Suriname

Bouterse Not Interested in Political Power

FL1001205290 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] A lot of politics is being traded in the process of ending the armed violence in Suriname. Recently, this could be witnessed by the community in Moengo where

a mass public meeting was held by the Jungle Commando headed by Ronny Brunswijk. This was stated this morning by Army Commander Desi Bouterse during an information meeting with members of the Army. Bouterse gave an explanation about the trends in the peace talks with the Jungle Commando and the Tucayana Amazons.

According to Army Commander Bouterse, some politicians are now forced to play politics with the peace process as their political influence reduces. Bouterse emphasized during the meeting that he is not interested in gaining political power. Political power is not important; political influence is the important factor, said Bouterse during the meeting in the Army barracks. The Army commander finally said the National Army will continue to be committed to ending the armed violence and pointed out that it will be a difficult and slow process.